Work

of

Daniel Webster's Life.

(With Portrait.)

1782 — 1852.

621



Mrs. D. Wilson,

EOX

Manuscript of

Mr. Daniel Wilson's Life:—

(Written by himself)

Late Pastor of the Baptist Church at

Tunstall, Suffolk,

&c. &c.—

Born on February the 6th. 1773, & Died on Sept. 9th. 1844.

This MS. was Printed from, with his Writings, &c: forming a book with upwards of 280 pages (12mo size.) in 1847-8.

A. The Life of Daniel Wilson.

Chapter 1.

I was born in ~~that~~ obscure village of Iken, in the county of suffolk, on the 6th of Feb. 1773.- My parents were poor, and had to get their bread by their labour.- My father was much adicted to drinking, which was much followed in that day.- He was also too fond of bad company, and bad language, of course, set his children but a poor example.- My Mother was of a different disposition.- She was very moral, sober, honest and industrous, a member of the established church, for many years, but it seems, ignorant of the righteousness of Jesus Christ.- till the latter part of her life, when I hope she was different.- Of course I was trained up, according to the course of this world, and in the service of the God of this world, being christened in my infancy, with sponcers to promise for my future conduct.- But alas- as I grew in years, I grew up in ignorance and sin, and no one cared for my soul.- Bad language I learned from my childhood, bad company I soon delighted in, and bad practices naturaly followed, till I was at times, almost "given over to a reprobate mind, and hardened through the deceitful nefs of sin".- Still I was not without checks of conscience at times, even from my youth, and can remember having fears of death and of Judgment to come, and feeling terror at some very bad words and actions, but these soon wore off again.- The first circumstance I recollect hearing my mother mention about me was, when I was about two years of age, I fell into a tub of hot beer, which she was brewing, but not much hurt, when taken out.- The next, which I well recollect, was happened one sunday.- My father some times on the course of the summer, would go over the ferry to Aldbrough, to

see the sea, and to spend the sabbath and get drunk.—
After having spent a part of the day up town, on our
return to the ferry, he would stop at the public house
called Slaughton, to make up his allowance as he called it.
I, going to play in the boats with other boys, made a
false step and fell into the river.— The tide being high,
the water was perhaps, eight or ten feet deep at the 2nary
I sunk to the bottom twice, and the second time of coming
up, I caught hold on a piece of wood belonging to the 2nary,
and to my life was preserved that time also.— Thus was
the Lords doing, tho I knew him not.— Had I gone down
to the bottom once more, probably I had not come up, till I had
been taken out dead.— "How narrowly my soul escaped
the snares of death and Hell"—

From this time, till I was near twelve years of age, nothing
particular transpired, that I recollect, only as my father used
to take me with him to Gin shops and ale houses and cock
fights and such places, and go home at all seals of the night
calling my poor mother up, to let us in.— One night I remember
her going home with him from Oxford, the night very dark,
and he forward in liquor, our path way lay across some
fields, where was a deep pit beside the path.— I could see it,
but he could not.— He was going to walk into it, but I beg
ged and prayed and pulled him by his clothes, and so
stopped him from going down into that pit,— which might have
proved fatal.— "God moves in a mysterious way"
I have often thought of it, since, when I have gone to preach
the gospel in that dark place of Oxford, and have gone
home by the same path way, in the dark of the night—

My parents being poor, and having a family, I was obliged, as soon as capable, to go from them to get my bread.— Accordingly when I was about 11 or 12 years of age, I was put to a farm house in the parish, to look after the cows and pigs, and wait on the dairy maid, and do any thing I could.— In this situation I had to suf fer hardships, particularly in the winter season, with wet and cold and sometimes beaten rather severely &c— The dairy maid was a humane feeling person, and treated me very kindly, and often warned me, and screened me from a beating.— It is something remarkable, that after I became a preacher; and was settled at Tunstall, that, that woman was one of the first that I baptized.— I hope she lived and died a good Woman, and would sometimes say in a jokeing way,— "She was baptized by her cow boy" After spending a year or two in this line of life, I began to be very tired of it, and was anxious to go to sea, I suppose with a view to get rid of my troubles, but in order to get rid of one, we sometimes plunge ourselves into many.— My father went with me to Aldbro' (Aldborough), and agreed with Capt Clarke, for me to go with him to Greenland, and I was to be at London, to join the ship, by the 20th of Feb. I think in 1736. Accordingly I went at my time, by a trading vessel from Aldbro', found my captain, and the ship called the Good Intent, belonging to a Mr Sykes of London, where I entered in safety and joined with the rest of the crew &c

About the 25th. of March, we sailed for Gravesend, where we were mustered, in number 45 hands in all, and in a few days sailed for Greenland, so called, not because of its green shrubs and plants, (for nothing but snow and ice are seen) but because it was first discovered by one capt Green a Dutchman.- We encountered a long and heavy gale of wind in the north sea, before we got among the ice, in which we were in great danger; but mercifully preserved. We caught 4 whales, with some seals, which was counted a pretty good voyage, and returned to England in safety, a bout the latter end of Aug. or in September, where I found my frends alive and well.- At the beginning of this voy age, capt Clarke took me into the cabbin, to wait on him the chief mate and the Doctor, a comfortable birth, had I been obedient, but I was resolved to take my chance upon deck with the rest, and so had to suffer for my folly, as I have too often done since, for which I have had greatly to lament, and have to this day, and to cry, "my foolish ness, my foolishness". Oh that I were wise, when shall it once be?- I lived with my parents till the following season, perhaps got a little work when I could, and when the time came round, I agreed to go with capt Clarke again.-

By the 20th. of Feb.- I again arrived at Londn, and found my capt on board another ship, called the Lyns, belonging to the same owner, where I entered, and at the usual time, set sail for Greenland, once more.-

Capt Clarke took me into the cabbin again, to wait as before, and I was wise enough to keep my birth, during the voyage.- (When I was quite young, I was sent to a Woman's School, to learn to read and knit, till I could read in the Spelling book and testament, and had a thirst for reading, but had lacked opportunity) During the time I was in the cabbin, there was a book there called, Robinson Crusoe.- This book attracted my attention and as I had leisure there, I read it much, and was well pleased with its contents, though I believe since, it was but a fictious thing.- But it was the means of learning me to read much better than I could before, and so was a means of good so far.- I never recollect seeing a Bible on board, though there were 15- of us in all, but the Captain had a small prayer book, that he used, when he retired to sleep.- rest- I believe, "there was no true fear of God before our eyes."- During this voyage, some things transpired worthy of notice.- One time, the ship being anchored to a field of ice, the weather fine, no fish stirring, nothing to do, the Captain with his glass, could see some White bears upon the ice which were common in those parts.- Wishing for a little sport, and desiring to catch them, he ordered a large piece of the Whale's flesh to be put upon the cook's fire and broiled and the bears being to leward of the ship, caught the scent, and came up close to the vessel.- The crew were all quiet, and waiting with their loaded muskets, ready to fire upon them, as soon as he approached near enough.-

During this time, of course I must be scheeming som thing.— I had heard the sailors say, that a sinew out of a whale's taul, made a beautiful cane to walk with, when dried, and there was a whale's taul, hanging in the fore chains, on the other side of the vessel, and I thought that a fit opportunity, to get a sinew.— But some how, unawars my foot slipped, and over board went I, and no eye saw me but Gods— It so happened, that a rope called the fore sheet, was hanging slack over the side of the ship, which I caught with my hand as I went down, and that was the means of keeping my head above Water; till the people on the boat came to my assistance, hauled me up and put me on deck again, and gave me a good beating.— Thus was the second merciful deliverance from a watery grave

But to return.— They shot at the bear, as soon as it came within reach, and wounded him fatally, so that they went upon the ice with their weapons & and punished his days, and I saw nothing of the sport, having enough to do to put on dry clothes, and warm myself, for I was al most perished with cold in those frozen regions.—

We caught two large whale-fishes and some seals this voyage and were thinking of leaving the country, when the ice surrounded us, so that for some weeks, we could get neither one way nor the other.— The capt and officers began to des pair of ever seeing old England again, and thought it advisable to come to half allowance of provisions, to lengthen out our stores as long as we could.— "Skin for Skin, all that a man hath will he give for his life"—

Soon after this, the wind changed, the ice opened, and we once more hoisted sails for old England, where we arrived in safety, to tell our friends some of the perils of a sea farming life. Thus ended my second voyage to the northern, ocean and I returned to my parents home, and never saw it since

When I returned the second time, I brought a few shillings home with me, and my parents agreed to give me my board and lodgings, if I would go to school and pay my own schooling, and learn to write &c. I readily acceeded to their offer; and went to school at Oxford nine weeks, for which I paid four shillings and six pence. Perhaps the largest sum which had been paid for my education, at one time I mean. The master said I made great progress for the time, having a natural thirst for learning, but never had the opportunity.

Time came for me to think about my third voyage to Greenland, and I went to Aldbro, and engaged myself to my old Captain, and agreed to meet him on board the Lyons again, on the 20th of Feb following, but forfeited my engagement. It was thus. I asked the captain of a trading vessel from Oxford, to give me my passage to London, to my vessel, and he said he thought I should suit him, as he wanted a youth of my description. This suited my inclination much better, because I should oftener see home, so I shipped myself to him, and forfeited my word to my old Captain.

I went in this vessel two voyages to London with corn and one to Sunderland for coals.- The weather was very cold, the winds boisterous, and the seas upon the coast ran high.- I was always subject to sea sickness, and a good deal of timidity.- If I lay in a harbour a little time, and then went out to sea, if we had a fresh of wind, and a rough sea, I was most sure to be sick, and good for but little, in fact I think now, I should have made a better fresh water sailor, than not. The voyage to Sunderland in the month of march seems to put a finishing stroke to my seafaring life, and I resolved at all events, to leave it, and keep on the land.- Well I did so, but it mortified me much, when I was reviled and called faint hearted lubber &c but I was obliged to put up with it all, tho it hurt my pride.- Well, I continued about at my parents but could get but little to do, and I knew but little about husbandry, nor how to get my bread, in fact, I was worth but little, by land or by sea, I had not practised either; long enough to understand the sciences of them. At this time my parents were getting old, and had quite enough to provide for themselves, and of course something must be done.- At this time I had a Sister married and living at a distance, and I went to see her and her husband and fell in with a situation at a farm house, where I continued for six months, and from that I got situations from year to year in the same line of life, till I was capable of getting my livelihood any where by husbandry.-

From this time and the four following years, nothing in particular
my poor life transpired that I recollect, only one day I was
kicked by a horse, which gave me a violent blow on my
thigh, which I felt the effects for years after.— But I was
rightly served, I was misusing the good creature, a thing that
I was too guilty of, and got paid in my own coin.—
I grew up strong, healthy, and active, perhaps few more so—
but withall very wicked.— I must confess, (I hope with
humility) that my disposition was bad, and that led
me into bad company, bad practises, and much bad
language.— I had a disposition for stealing, lying, swear
ing and gambling, that I look back with wonder now,
that I escaped without being made a public example of.
I have read the life of the revd Jnº Newton, where he con
fesses he was disbeloved by all wherever he went, and I
am sorry to say, (but to speak truth I must say it,) that
I was too much like him, in that respect.—

After roving about five years from place to place,
on the 10th of oct. 1793, I returned to my native village
Ilsen, and engaged with a farmer there for constant
employ, and boarded and lodged with my parents
who were still alive.— Here I promised myself to lead
a better life, to read my book, and to attend at church &
and to leave off my swearing, (to which I was too much addicted)
and my bad habits, and to become quite religeous.—
I began to do so, and there was an old Bible, left there
by a servant man, which I took to, and read it through.—

Few perhaps can think the effect which the reading of the Bible produced upon my mind and conduct. - I became much more steady, less profane and began to pray on my way. One day I recollect walking through the wood where was a path, and feeling so impressed from what I had read, that I turned aside and under an oak tree, attempted to pour out my soul unto God in prayer, that I might become like one of those good people I read of in the Bible. Oh, that men would search the scriptures more, for they are they which testify of Jesus Christ." - My mother being a very moral, and what was called then, a good living woman, used read her prayer book and new testament, and was fond of hearing me read, and glad to see me become so steady. But my poor father, tho he could read and write pretty well yet could not bear to read, nor hear the Bible or good books read, but novels and corrupt books, he was very fond. Well; I went on with my reformation for some time, going to church pretty regular, reading after the minister in the church service, and attending to my rounds of duties, till people began to think highly of me, and so did I of myself, I was not a bit behind them there. —

Some time I would break out in passion, and say bad words and sometimes join my companions at a good frolick, and have a few nights at cards at Christmas time, and a few days at the ten pins, and a few merry songs and games, but these things were counted harmless mirth, and what every body, parson and people followed, [considering that] none but fools and methodists would ever speak against them. —

~~But~~ during my reformation, and the three years I lived there in a single life, I made some sad holes in my manners which I wish for prudence sake, here to pass over.—

I again laid down the reigns upon the neck of my lusts, till they might say of me, "the dog is returned to his own vomit again".—

Soon after I settled at Eben, the time referred to, I formed an acquaintance with a young female, and after carrying it on three years, we were joined in marriage, on the 18th of october, 1796.—

There was some thing[x] singular in the providence of God, in bringing us together, which I could never overlook, since my eyes were opened;—it was this.— A little time before I came to reside at Eben, I was drinking with others at a public house, in an upstair room, at the fair time till a late hour of the night, when two young females came into the room, in search of some person.— One of them caught my attention, and I bear me my affection, that I would have given any thing I had to have been in her company,— but she was gone, and I knew not where,— I went down, and into the street, but it being dark and late in the night, I knew not where to wander, and soon returned to my company again.— In three weeks time we were both placed together at one farm house, formed an acquaintance and became one.— I cannot help thinking that this also was the Lords doing, tho we knew him not.— If I am called an enthusiast for this, I cannot help it, for I have always viewed the hand of the Lord in it, since he has opened mine eyes.— So did Jacob no doubt, remember the way and place and time, that he met with his beloved Rachel with her fathers sheep and kissed her.— Gen.

I pass on now to a fresh scene, but not without stopping to make a few moments reflections.- How true is the saying of the wise man, "childhood and youth are vanity". Eccl. XI-10 To a certainty mine were altogether so, surely more than ~~any~~ ones. How clear in my conduct and conversation, are the words of the wise mans pathes proved & to be correct. Ps. LXIII-3. "The wicked are estranged from the womb, they go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies." -And equeally as certain is his confession, in Ps. XXII and 10-"I was cast upon thee from the womb, thou art my God from my mothers belly". thus must have been the case with me- for he watched over my path, "When satans blind slave, I sported with death".- How great must be the patience and long sufferengx and forbearancex of God, to bear with us in all our ill manners, and agravatang crimes, from our youth up.- And if childhood and youth be such vanity, What are riper years, destitute of the grace of God?- I look back then with some bitter reflections,- remorse of conscience, and self abasement, to see the race ~~that~~ I ran in the days of my vanity, and say- "Surely I was more brutish than any man".- But I look with exqueal wonder and surprise, at the goodness of God to me, one of the chief of sinners, and vilest of the vile.- Cannot I look back now for a series of years, and cry, What hath God wrought? Cannot I look at present things and say with equael Wonder, What is he now working for me and mine?- And shall I not have cause to all eternity to exclaim- What hath He done for me?-

During the first four years of our marriage state, we lived in ignorance of God, and of true godliness, and though I had made promises to myself, that when I got married and settled, I would lead a better life, but I found when occasion suited, I could break all such promises and resolutions as those, as easy as Samson could the green withs with which he was bound, and again launch into profanity with as much eagerness as ever.— In these four years we had two children born to us, pretty little Girls, which we carried to the parish church, and had them Christened, as it was blindly termed, and we lived and acted "according to the course of this World" for we knew no other way.— During this time, I lost my father by death, and my mother resided with us till her death, and we both labored hard for the bread that perisheth, and were counted honest and industrious &c.— In the year 1800. We became somewhat acquainted with a man and his wife, who had began to go to meeting, and for that very reason, had been turned out from their situation as governor and governess of the poor house in Thetford and were obliged to take a small cottage in the village and labour for their support.— This man invited me one Lords day morning, to go with him to Rendham meeting, (nine miles) to hear a funeral sermon.— I agreed to go with him, and we went and spent the day, the first day, I ever spent at a dissenting place of worship.— The text in the morning was, Deut. XXXIII & 29, "O people, saved by the Lord."

The afternoon text for the funeral was, Ps. XXIII & 1—
"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." — I don't know
that the discourses and services of the day, had any good
effect upon my mind, but I was astonished to hear the
pray and to see him preach without a book, a thing which
I had been quite unaccustomed to, but I remember, when I
got with old companions afterwards, I could turn into ridicule, some of the good things I had heard that day —
This man and woman, would invite me to their house, after
this, to spend an evening, and to read with them, and they
would sing Hymns, and the woman would engage in prayer
and I sometimes stayed with them, till a late hour. — —
When there was preaching in a village about three miles, off
they would invite me to go with them, which I often did,
and seemed to like it very well, but always said, they should
not persuade me, to forsake my Church, for any one —
Before the end of this year, 1800, I had formed a resolution
to leave off card playing, a thing that I was so dearly fond
of, and bewitched too — I think I once recollect, sitting at
cards, with my companions, 26, hours, without very little in
termission, except just to get a morsel of victuals, or a cup
of tea; and never recollect being either tired or sleepy, when
at cards or ten pins — What a shame then, to be both, in the
worship of God, in less than two hours, when under the sound
of salvation, through a once crucified, but now exalted saviour.

"But when I blush, be this my shame —
That I no more revere his name!" —

I said I had formed a resolution to play at card no more.—
Well, the christmas eve came on, a noted time for that sport,
and I and the people with whom I laboured, were in the
habet of making bets, or laying wagers for gin—and having
some back reconings, we agreed to go to the gin shop,
and have in our winings and loosings on christmas eve.—
Accordingly we went, but my resolution was, they should
not get me to play at the cards, perticularly, as my relig
ous friends lived next door.— We got to drinking, and
they to playeing, but I stood out for sometime, till at lenyth
overcame by persuasion, I began, and sat at it tell a late
hour of the night, and before we parted, we got to abusing
each other, to quarreling, and to fighting,— Thus thanefully
ended the christmas eve, the year of 1800 —— I, with my wife and
two children, had to dine the next day, at our masters,
according to the custom, of christmas dinners.— The
of that house reproved me thamfly, for the last evenng's
work, and I was exceedingly ashamed of myself, I remem
ber; and well I might.——
The christmas day be
ing over; my wife and I went to see my younger brother,
who was then married and settled at Orford, there I got to
my favourite cards again, and so I held it all the holidays—
Thus terminated my mad carene, at that favorite amuse
ment of mine, never to take them up again, to kill another
hour of my precious time.—— As this was just before I
hope the Lord called me by his special grace, I have often thought,
the devel was doing his worst with me, as he knew his time
was short.— "When he was coming, the Devil threw him down"

I thought from this time ~~of course~~, my religious neighbours would take ~~any~~ no more notice of me, nor ask me to their house again, particular as it was under the same roof, that I had that spree, on christmas eve.- I felt glad, because I thought I should have greater liberty to take my swing without control.--- But to my surprise, the woman saw me passing one day, and said to me, "why you never come to spend an evening with us now"- from which I promised to go again, and so I did,- but greatly ashamed, and afraid they should tell me of my just conduct, but I dont recollect, they ever mentioned it- and that was their wisdom, for had they reproved me, I should soon have been offended, and perhaps deserted them altogether I frequainted their house frequently during that winter, and sometimes went with them of an evening, to hear preaching in a village three miles distant, called Snape- till the people began to call me "a meetinger;"- but sometimes I would break out with my horrid oaths and curses, to convince them to the contrary.- "But Gods ways are not our ways, nor his thoughts our thoughts."-

On the first sabbath of February, 1801- Mr & Mrs Lewis, (for that was the name of the people) came to our house in the forenoon, to invite me with them, to an evening lecture at Saxmundham, six miles- My wife was cooking dinner, as was the custom on sundays, but we were both ashamed, that they should see us after it-

Our service at the church was that afternoon, and our clergyman had been preaching to us, such fine sermons of late, that I could not think of leaving my church.— However, after they were gone, and dinner was over, I began to prepare for church, which was nearly a mile on the way towards Saxmundham; and another inducement was, I wanted to see a tradesman who lived half way thither, to request him to come and repair our pump.— Mr & Mrs Lowe promised to wait for me at Snape, and accompany me to the preaching house.— When I was going out of my house, I said to my wife. What shall I do?— go, or not She kindly answered, I must do my own thoughts upon the subject, for she did not know which was right, nor which was wrong."— Well I said, I will be ruled by the sermon I hear at church, and if it be a good one, I shall return home, if not, I shall go forward."—

When the services were over; I felt exceedingly dissatisfied, & wanted something else, but I could not tell what, so on I posted towards Saxmundham.— At Snape, I fell in with Mr & Mrs. L— and another friend who was going to accompany them.— My mind was very much impressed with thoughts of turning back again, and I thought if I could see that tradesman I wanted to see, I would set off for home again.— But Mr L. accompanied me to the man's house, and would not leave me; so I felt constrained to go all the way, tho considerably against my will.

Well, when we arrived at the preaching house, no one could tell my feelings, nor did I attempt, to tell them to any one. My mind had been greatly exercised for weeks past, to know the right way from the wrong, but I could not tell. — After entering the house, I well recollect, turning my face to the Wall, at one corner; and praying to God, that if it were possible to know the right way from the wrong, I might know it then. — I think I may say with the poet —

"It was he who taught me thus to pray
"And he I trust has answered prayer." —
But it has been in such a way
As almost drove me to despair". —

The minister Mr. Wearing of Reidham came out of the little room, stood up upon a stool, gave out the 36th. Hymn, in the 1st Book, Watts; and they sung it, and he engaged in prayer; and they sung again. — After which he opened the Bible and read his text from John the XI, and 35 verse "Jesus wept". — In the course of his prayer; he repeatedly mentioned the expression, "our God". A thought struck my mind, surely these people have not got an idol God here, if so, I shall be ruined for ever &c. — In the course of his preaching, he describing what Jesus wept for, he said it was for sin, but not his own, and to see the havock sin had made, that one whom he loved so dearly was dead, and if man had not sinned, he would not have died, and those who had sin might, must weep, and many other things, which were quite new to me then. —

After service was over, we walked for home, Mr & Mrs L and
their friends talking together about the sermon, and relig
eous things, but I was a hearer, and said but little, and
so best, for I knew but little but was full thought. —
The next day I went to my imployment as usual, which
was threshing alone, and all the while full of thought
about what I had heard the evening before, perticularly
those words, "they that see sin will weep". I thought, when
I saw other people sin I should weep for it, but had little
idea that it was for my own. — All in a moment, as
I was working, I felt such a ray of light and comfort
flow into my heart, that I was an entire stranger to
before, and these words burst from my lips, "blessed be
the Lord," what can this be? — I thought I could then be
gin to sing the Hymn which was sung the evening be
fore. "Now shall my inward joys arise,

And burst into a song,

Almighty love inspires my heart,

And pleasure tunes my tongue."

Blessed be God, I hope it was almighty and unchange
able love, and such pleasure as I had heretofore, been
an entire stranger to. — Well, the passed sweetly away
as I was threshing alone, and I hope like Gideon, held
my communion with God, till night came on, when I
returned home, full of joy and comfort, from what
had taken place. —

I could not tell my wife and my mother my feelings, but I told them, they would never hear me swear, nor see me intoxicated again," and they wondered at that which had happened." — I wanted to go to my friend L.'s that evening, to relate to them what a change had taken place but was prevented. — I fully intended going the next evening, but was prevented again, till my heart was like a bottle with new wine, ready to burst. — The third evening I went, and we got into conversation about the good things, and I believe "our hearts burned together, while we talked about Him by the way." — I suppose we forgot how time went, for when I got home, it was mid night, and I found my Wife crying, for the thought some bad thing had happened to me, and said if I was out so late, and brought hard all the day, I should soon lay myself up, or go mad about religion. — Well, thus passed off, and as Mr. W. gave notice of preaching there again, on the friday week, being a day appointed as a fast day, I made up my mind to go and hear him again. — When time came, I and my friend L. set off, and it snowed very fast as we went, till we were covered. — I called on my wife's friends, who lived near the preaching house, and they asked me if I was come all that way to hear old W—? I said yes. — They swore I was well set at work, so they proved miserable comforters to me. —

However I went on, and heard him preach again, and he spoke about the nature of sin, and of a future, and quoted those words, "rend your hearts and not your garments" which words had a great effect upon my mind. —

I went home I thought I must have spoken to Mr
W. after he had done, and have told him how and
what I felt, but my heart failed me, having never
spoken to him, nor any such a person in my life.—
I and my friend went home again on the snow,
but our hearts were warm, and thro mercy, we took
no harm.— I went on with my labour every day,
and little else but the best things ran in my mind.
But as I was working alone, I had sweet opportunitys
in prayer and meditation, and began to carry my bible
or some good book with me, to read at my leisure.—
One day while thus alone, I began to feel exceedingly
heavy and sorrowful at heart, and sin began to ap
pear exceedingly sinful, and my heaviness was so
great, I could not work, but I wept and prayed, and
for the first time from my heart, used the publican's
prayer, "God be merciful to me a sinner".— I then saw
the first time, what my lost and ruined state as a
sinner against God, deserving his wrath and curse,
and my inability to save myself.— I saw there was
none but Christ could save me, nor nothing but his
blood, could atone for my multiplied transgressions.
To him I hope I was enabled to flee, and found rest
for my soul.— I went home at night, with a
heavy countanance, and my wife perceived it, and
wanted to know the matter, but I said but little.—
She told Mrs L. there was something the matter with me.
who said, "he will be better after this, let him alone".—

But now things must come to a point.- I could not attend at my church any more, but must go to Kendham meeting on the sabbaths, a distance of nine miles.- Thus greatly enraged the people, and particular my employer, who was also my land lord, and he began to threat en bitterly to turn me from his employment, and from my house and home also.- Well thus went on, and I was enabled to steer strait forward, and leave the event.-

Soon after this, we agreed to have friend Lewis's house licenced for preaching, and got Mr Waring to come and open it, which he did one sabbath evening, early in the summer of 1801.- Thus stirred up their rage, and the farmers, (except two) met Mr W.- after he had preached and desired him to come no more at his peril.- He laughed at them, and dove off for home.- All this was thrown upon friend L. and myself, and the village was all in an uproar.- The farmers who met Mr Waring ~~all~~ went to my master's house, and their sat and drunk all night, till when I went to work in the morning, I saw and heard a most disgraceful account of them and I believe they were ashamed of their brutish conduct. "Why did the heathen rage, and the people immagine a vain thing".- Mr. Lewis, previous to this, had been baptized by Mr. Thomson, and joined the church at Grundisburgh, but this was very little known at this time. I used to go to Kendham frequently on the sabbath, and was very much comforted under Mr W.'s preaching, and I hope edified. and went on my way rejoicing.-

In the course of this Summer, Mr Thompson came over, and preached to us one Lords day, and he had the mem bers of his church, that were able to expound the Scriptures and preach to us babes, them he would send alternately lending them his poney, (for the distance was 15 miles) and so we had not such lengths to go, nor to wander abroad Thus continued for some time, till one of them, Mr Reynolds by name, came and lived amongst us, and wrought at his business, being a shoe maker — Our Congregation increased and our place was too strait for us, but we did not know what to do for the best: — One Sabbath before I left Rendham meeting, after Mr W. had done preaching in the afternoon, the Clerk gave out the 52. Hymn, in the 1st book of Watts: — The third verse in particular took my attention, above the rest. —

"Repent and be baptized he saith
For the remission of your sins &c"

Repent and be baptized, I thought, why then re pentance should precede baptism, and I was baptized in my infancy: — I went home and searched the new testament, and found it to be so of a truth, and on the last Sabbath in July, 1801, I was baptized by Mr Thompson, and received into the church at Grundisburgh Before this, my wife was called by grace, and walking with me in the good ways, and we were going on com fortably, tho enduring much persecution from the world, yet we seemed to be of good cheer &c. —

I felt conscious that it was my duty to commence family worship, which I did after some struggles with my own fears, and weakness, and other things, but my Wife and mother were not opposed to it, which made it the more pleasant for me. — I began to engage in prayer, and to expound the Scriptures to my neighbours, when a few of us gathered together for that purpose, and to read the Hymns, when we had preaching &c. Thus we went on from strength to strength. — Mr. Thompson perceiving there was a prospect of a cause being raised in that neighbourhood, came over and looked about, and consulted matters, and he perceived it would be best, to have a place for preaching at Tunstall. three miles from Ilkeston — Accordingly he purchased one end of an old clay cottage, with a small piece of ground, and added to the building, till it might hold 150 people. — Thus we were highly set up with a place of worship and a minister to preach to us. — The people attended from the adjacent villages, and, several were baptized at Grundesburgh, and in the face of our enemies, we grew and prospered, and did not mind walking three or four miles on the sabbath morning to hear the gospel, and to meet for the worship of God. — —

One sabbath morning, before I started for Tunstall, my master sent for me, wishing to see me.— I went, and when I entered the house, he pointed to his wife, who appeared to be in a deranged state, and said to me, there, you see what you and old mother Lewis have done, you have crazed my wife, and ruined my peace forever; and now I'll kill you— He took down his large riding whip, with a heavy brass end to it, caught me by my collar; and fetched a violent blow at my head, but his mother; and the servants immediately caught his arms, and held him fast, till I escaped out of the jaws of the lion, and made my way home, and soon set off for Tunstall meeting, with little other damage than a torn shirt bosom.— I spent the day, "rejoicing that I was counted worthy to suffer shame for his name" His mother begged me not to have recourse to law, nor think more about it, and so it settled for that time.— After this he swore, if he happened of me upon the premises, he would shoot me, and I actually went in fear of my life, and have looked from my work on the day time, to see if he was not coming with his gun.—

As soon as I could finish up my work, I told him I should leave, and have no more of that usage.— Before I left his premises, one of the greatest enemies in the parish sent for me, and gave me employment, and it evidently turned out much to my advantage.

"The earth helped the Woman"—

Hes wife had seemed in a low way of mind for some time, and it was true I had talked to her about soul concerns, and hoped they were religeous impressions, but it proved the contrary. - But I thought every thing religeon then, which made that appearence. —

We continued to attend regularly at Tunstall, and the people used to flock to hear; and some times Mr Reynolds was unwell, and unable to preach, then I would attempt to spout a little, and the people seemed pleased, not knowing much what they heard —

On may the 9th 1804, Mr Thompson came over, and formed the members which had been baptized, into a church at Tunstall, about 40 in number, and Mr R- was settled pastor over them. — I was continued a member at Grundesburgh, because they fancied I should have gifts for preaching, and in the begening of Feb. 1805 they called me to exercise my gifts before the church at Grundesburgh, which I did, from than words on 2 Cor. VI & 10. "as having nothing, yet possesing all things". — I continued to attend once a month, for about twelve months, when they sent me out to preach, where God in his providence should call me.

By this time Mr Reynolds and the people at Tunstall had parted, and they gave me an invitation to preach to them, which I acceeded to, and commenced my labours on the begening of Feb. 1806. - and continued it 6 years and 6 months. —

I was situated there, about 4 miles from the meeting and had to labour hard all the week for the support of my family, having six children, I used to walk to meeting, preach twice, and go into the villages 4 miles round, and preach on the sabbath evenings, and home same night, so that my sabbath journeys averaged 12 miles, and wrought hard all the week.— The people would make a collection for me once a quarter, and get me about 50 shillings or £3 — the funds granted something yearly, and so I went on, for five or six years. I think I Baptized nearly 40 persons the two first years, and the congregation increased, till our place was again too strait for us, and we thought we wanted a new one.— I prefsed upon Mr Thompson, to furnish us with the money to build a new Chapel, which he consented to, altho he had received neither interest nor principle, for what he had laid out, which was nearly £100 — In the Summer of 1808, we took the old place down, and built a new brick chapel, 36 feet by 22, with gallery in front.— All this was the beginning of sorrows to me, which are not ended to this day, tho more than 30 years have rolled away since then I think. In the year 1807, I received a letter from an unknown friend in London, to go, and get a home licenced at Aldbro, and preach there, which I did, by paying £2. 12 — pr annum, and finding candles and all expenses, and the friends in London returned me the money.—

Here I cannot help recording a few of the particulars respecting Aldbro'. Perhaps latish in the summer of 1806.- a gentleman and his wife from London, visited Aldbro, for the purpose of sea bathing. The woman was a baptist, a member of Mr. Abraham Booth's church. The man was an enemy to religion, and made choice of Aldbro, to get her away from all religious society.- And in fact he could not have taken her to a more destitute place, for there was not a dissenter, nor perhaps a person that truly feared God in the place.- Of course she began to make enquiry, and was told, that there were some poor people who lived about two miles from thence that were called ~~many~~ baptist, but they knew but little about them.- One day, when opportunity offered, she thought she would go in search of these poor people, and when she found their cottage, she saw the Hymn books am Bible lying, &c. and she felt her heart leap for joy. Entering into conversation with them, she found they were members at Tunstall, and had to travel six miles and that I was minister there.- She took my address and when she returned to London, she communicated to her friends the destitute state of Aldbro, and they wrote to me as before mentioned, and I obtained leave to preach in a small room, upon the forementioned terms; and from that simple means sprung the baptist cause at Aldringham, and two baptist chapels to be built in Aldbro, and I hope many praying souls raised up. Behold what great things God brings out of small beginnings. "The little cloud rising out of the sea &c"

The first text I preached from at Aldbro, was Luke the XIX & 9th "This day is salvation come to this house" &c —
The people out side made a great noise, threw stones at the door, blew assifetely thro the key hole, and used to hoût and stone me down towards the ferry, but God protected me, and I received no material harm, and he began his good work in the hearts of several persons who have been living monuments to his grace and glory.

But to return to Tunstall, and my own affairs there: I continued to labour and preach, and went out beg ging for the chapel, till I reduced the debt down to £300 — But my strength began to be exhausted, my constitution gave way, and my mind and spirits began to be exceeding low and depressed, till I was fit for nothing, tho in the prime of life, under 40 years of age. — I told the people I must give up, and from that and other things, considerable uncomfort ableness arose, till in may, 1812, I resigned my office, and was cast upon the providence of God. —

But now came on the deep waters for me — Having a family of six children, and not able to labour much and no source to flee to for support but God and his providence, my situation became very trying. —
Still my mind was very serene and comfortable, and I enjoyed much of the love and presence of christ, and was much in private prayer, and reading the scriptures, and communon with God &c —

For nearly three years I continued in an unsettled state, during which time I was very much tried in every respect - sometimes I could labour a little, and earn something, sometimes I was called to supply for a sabbath or two. - I supplied at Beccles, 15 sabaths at Hunslope in Bucks, 12. - ~~and~~ at Shelfhanger in Norfolk 3 sabbaths, and at other places occasionly, but found no rest for the sole of my foot any where. - During these years, the Lord so provided, that I don't recollect, ever me, or my family really wanting bread, ~~of course~~ we were sometimes very near to it, but some how, and by some means, ~~and~~ I cannot tell how, - God was always to us, "Jehovah Jireh," and did provide.

In the Summer of 1814, my health was worse, and I could not work, and my wife was determined to ask the overseer of the parish for some relief, tho it was rather against my will. - She did so, and he granted some twice. - After this, there was a suspision, that I did not belong to that parish, and they summoned me to swear my settlement, and it was given in, that I belonged to the parish of Broadisham. - Now things were come to a crisis, and I belonged to the great hundred house of Bulcamp, where they took me, and my Wife and family, before the committee, and they received us in - I begged hard to be allowed a trip home and to let us return, which was granted. - -

But the parishoners would not let us abide at Iken any
more, and as we had been carried home with an order, the law was
against us, so we were obliged to look up our house, and
go where we could get shelter. — My brother who was then
minister of the Baptist church at Aldeburgh, agreed
to take in my wife and two youngest children, and
and we got the others, one to one place, and one to an
other, till we got them all housed I hope safe. —
One act of brotherly kindness of the church and con
gregation at Aldeburgh, which I would not over
look, was this — They entered into a subscription voluntarily
and raised 7 or 8 shillings per week towards our sup
port, while in these distresses, for which I believe the
Lord has rewarded them, and I have done all in my
power to return their kindness, since the Lord turned
the scale with me and with them. — The Finstall people
never helped us, to the best of my knowledge, one shilling.

After things were thus put into order, to the best of
our abilities, a Captain of a small vessel, going to
London with corn, offered to give me my passage up
if I would go, and said it might be beneficial to my health,
and as I had friends there, it might turn out for good. —
I agreed to go with him at the time appointed, and
set out for Aldboro to go on board, but was told the
vessel had just sailed, and I was too late. — It was
time, but she had not gone more than half a mile
down the river; before the wind ceased, with and tide against
her, and they were obliged to come to an anchor. —

I walked upon the rivers bank, till I got opposite the vessel, when they put the boat off, took me on board, the tide soon turned, a breeze sprang up, we weighed anchor, and hoisted sail for London.— When I parted with my wife (sorrowful parting) I had two pound notes and an eighteen penny piece.— I gave her one note, and took the other with me.— My brother went up with me, and when we arrived, we went to our kind friends house, Mr. Coleman, 18th Wapping, where we met with a kind reception, and he requested us to take their house as our home, during our stay in London.— The capt took nothing for my passage, and I gave the lad the eighteen penny piece and went into London with my £1-note.— Time came for my brother to leave, and return home, and I must be left, for I had no home, but I made up my mind, to go about, and try all means, to get something of a situation, and get my family up that way if possible, and if I could not, when my note was spent, and every thing failed, I could but be brought back to Bulcamp workhouse.— On the morning of my brother's departure, I walked with him to the coach, in White Chapel, but the first coach was started, but there was another to start for Ipswich soon. so we waited.— There was a gentleman, a Mr. L.— from Ipswich, who was waiting also.— This gentleman knew me, and when we parted from him, he shook hands, and gave me a five shilling dollar, and we took our

leave &c

I went to the west end of the town that day, to consult Mr. Keeble, minister of Blanford Street, and some of his friends, about what I had best do, and whether it was likely that I and my family could get our bread in London by industry, permitting my health would admit. — They gave me some encouragment, and said, any industrious people might get a living there, and recommended selling coals, and wood and other things accompanying that trade &c. I spent the sabbath at Blanford st meeting, and read and prayed for Mr K. — After Service was over, a man put a piece of paper into my hand, which proved to be a £1 — note. — At this my poor heart leaped for joy, and I asked who I was to thank for it? and he said, no one: but I was to preach there, on the Wednesday evening following. — Mrs Coleman walked about London with me at times, and one day she called on a lady, whose husband I think, was captain of a ship, who traded to the Island of Barmadus, and they wanted a minister to go as missionary to that Island, but of course I was not a man qualified for such a situation, and so that idea was given up. — When we parted she gave me £2. notes, which made my poor heart ready to burst with joy and thankfulness, to see the kind and good hand of my God upon me. —

My friends Mr and Mrs Coleman, had a country house at Woodford, about ten miles from town, whether they went to spend the sabbath.— Thus Mrs Coleman was the person that visited Aldbro, a few years before this, which I mentioned, before. but her first husband was dead, and she had changed her name again, and was not unequicably yoked now.— There was a small chapel at Woodford, in the Lady's Huntingdon's connection, & supplied by various, and my friends wished me to supply on the following Lords day.— I did so, and, my morning text was "the Lord tryeth the righteous" I could speak from that by experience.— They gave me a guinea for my poor services, and several put something into my hand privately.— —

A respectable tradesman and his wife from Snars brook were to hear me in the evening, who invited me to their house, to make some stay with them, so I went home with them that evening.— The next morning I went to town again, to seek after some situation, and often groaning out those words to myself.— "O. could I find a settled rest

Then others might go and come"—

Often when sleeping in London, have I envied the poor sweeps, and others going crying different things about the streets, and said to myself ah— these have a home, I have none.— these can be with their families, I am an outcast from all.— —

But to return to my narative. – While I was gone to town that day, a young gentleman who heard me preach the day before, called at Mr Clark's, and made enquery for the man who preached at Woodford yesterday morn, they told him I was gone to London, but they expected me to return in the evening". – He said, do you think a £1. or two would be of use to him" they said yes, no doubt but it would. – He took out £3. notes, and said give them to him, with my respects &c –

When I returned in the evening, I was presented with the £3. notes, – and my poor heart had again to praise God for his goodness. – Who this gentleman was, I never positively knew to this day, but God did. – Well, I could meet with nothing in London, but thus Mr Clarke of Snaresbrook, had a house and small shop standing empty at Leighton, and he offered me that, and said he thought we might get a livery there, and I agreed to take it, at £20. rent, with other expenses. – – I must now return to suffolk for my family, and Mr Clarke being a Suffolk man came down to see his friends, and brought me with him in his Gig. – so instead of my being passed home to Bulcamp workhouse, I was comfortably conveyed home by my friend, – and instead of my spending my £1. note, my pound had increased to ten pounds". – Thus was also the Lords doing, and certainly was very marvelous in my ~~sight~~ eyes

After returning to Suffolk, We parted with some of our furniture, and just we packed up, settled all our accounts, gathered our family together, and took our places, and put our chattles into a large stage Waggon, on the Thursday afternoon, and on the Saterday night, near twelve oclock, we arrived at Leighton, entered our new habitation, took a little refreshment, spread our beds on the floor, commended ourselves to God, and lay down to sleep. — Oct. 1816

Being very weary and fatigued out, we laid till late hour on Sabbath morning, when we arose, got some refreshment, and went to seek for the chapel at Marsh St. Walham stow, where we spent the afternoon. — We returned home to tea, and after tea some one knocked at the door, and enquired for Mr. Wilson. — I thought, who in the world knows me here? — There were two persons standing out side, and one said to me, "We are disappointed of a preacher, at a small chapel, a mile distance, we should be glad if you would come with us and supply for us this evening", for we have heard you preach at Woodford." — I went with them, and preached as well as I could, being taken by surprise, I read those words in Isaiah, "and all thy children shall be taught of the Lord" &c and the Lord helped me through, and they gave me a dollar for my services, and I returned home, I hope thankful. —

Here I pause for a moment, and think of somthings which I have Witnessed and suffered, during the past four years! — My nerves have been completely unstrung, my spirits which were naturaly cheerful, broken and turned into gloom, my natural strength which was robust, is greatly diminished, and my constitution broken up, and my age not yet 40 years! — My experience has been, and still is, very trying, God has been showing me, and making me keenly to feel, the total depravity of human nature, by making me to possess the iniquities of my youth. "He has led me into darkness, but not into light." my bed will neither comfort me, nor my couch ease my complaint and I am ready to say, I shall go thus all my days in the bitterness of my soul." — I have seen the pride of my heart, in rushing into the ministry as I did, and the wrong interpretation I have put upon some passages of the holy scriptures, with the wrong tempers and passions which I have too much indulged in, still a sight and sense of these, with thousands of others, make me almost "choose strangling and death rather than life." — I have often wetted my couch with tears — Were I here to give vent to my own feelings, and views, what better things could I write concerning myself, but I forbear, and return to the history of providence again. — I would not be misunderstood by any, that my mind was in total darkness respecting my interest in Christ, no, it was far from that at times.

Well, we are situated at Leighton, with a new scene before us, and what is to be done now?— We had not much money of course, after we had purchased a few things to make use of, and paid our passage up &c.— There was an oven in the house, and we bought a sack of flour, and my wife baked small bread to sell, and we got a few things into the shop to sell, and thus began the world afresh— My mind was gloomy night and day, and my health but little better, with a wife and five children upon me. One day, a person rode up to the door on a jorney, and enquired for me, I thought he was after the rates:— He took £3- notes from his pocket, and told me, them were for me!— I felt almost overcome with gratitude, and wished to know who I was to thank, he said that was unknown, he shook hands with me, and rode off— There were some rich people at Leightonstone, who had been hearers of the late Mr. Huntington, these were very kind to us, and helped us to other friends; and thus the Lord was raising us up supplies, from different quarters, in this strange place, where we were brought to sojourn.— Still my mind was dark, my faith was small, and all that ran in my mind was, we should be there six months, when our goods would be seized for rent, and we should be carried back to Bulcamp- Workhouse again.——By the time we had been here three or four months, I received an unexpected letter from Mr. Trivett, Baptist minister at Langham, to know if I were disengaged, and whether I would engage as an Itinerant for the Essex Baptist association;- if so, to meet them, at Braintree on such a day, and preach before them &c—

Time came, and I met the ministers and messengers,
and preached from Acts ~~xx~~ last clause & 24.- They sun of course, my
great deficiency in my own language, and after a long
consultation agreed, if I was willing, that I should go
down to ~~Reelyhey~~ Rayleigh, and be with Mr Pilkington, the baptist
minister there, to learn a little of my own tongue, until
their next association, and they would allow me a
guinea per week, to support my family.— I readily
agreed to their proposals, being just what I earnestly
desired and felt the need of, I went home, set my
house in order, took coach for ~~Reelyhey~~ Pemberton, where I safely
arrived the same evening, found Mr. P. and his friends
with whom I soon formed, and I hope enjoyed, most
intimate friendship, which I hope is not yet forgotten.—
I went to work, studied hard, till the association, when
I preached before them again, and they acknowledged
I had made considerable proficiency.— I soon saw my
great deficiencys, and that there were three things, which would
be benefical to me, viz- Grammer, Geography, and
arithmatic, and if I could but get the keys to these,
when ~~I got~~ settled, I could get on and work at them.
I was now 20 years of age, and I don't know whether I had
ever looked into a Grammer book!— O. thou precious thing
of learning!— had I had thee twenty five years before, this!
how different it might have been with me now!—
The association agreed that I should be their Itinerant,
and to give me £80- per annum, and that my first sta
tion should be at Horndon on the Hill, and the ajacent
villages around that neighbourhood &c—

I preached for some time at Hordon &c, but there appeared but little spirit for hearing the word, and there seemed a better opening at Grays, about six miles distance.— There was also a small place of warship, fitted up by the Independants, but was given up by them.— Mr Pilkington and his deacon came over one day to look at the station, agreed for the place, and sent me down to Grays.— I imediately took part of a house, went home and settled affairs, and removed my family to Grays, 1st Sept 1815.—

Now another fresh scene opened.— I laboured at Grays and Orsett twelve months, but met with little success, and there appeared another opening at Hey bridge, near Maldon.— The association agreed that I should be removed there, and accordingly we removed to Heybridge, in Oct. 1816.— During the year we spent at Grays, it was powerfully impressed upon my mind, that I should one day, have to return to Tunstall, and preach to that people again, and these impressions never wore off.

Well, I commenced preaching at Heybridge, in a place fitted up as a Meeting, which had been formerly a warehouse.— I continued preaching as Itinerant to the association, till May 1818.— When their funds began to be exhausted and I met with but little success, and they agreed to relinquish it for a time, and I was once more cast upon the bounties of providence, with a wife and family.— I came down to the Suffolk association at Ipswich on the June, but could hear of nothing suitable, I preached two Sabbaths at Grundesburgh, and returned again home.

During this time, my health was rather better, and I was very well satisfied with the conduct of the association towards me In fact I had written to Mr P., remarking to him that I thought I was a Jonah in their ship, and that they would have to throw me overboard, or I should sink them, and so it proved. I felt a determination to lay hold of the first thing that was offered, whereby I could provide things honest in the sight of men, but nothing appeared for some weeks — I continued preaching in our place, and the people kept raising something towards our support, and I continued to look out, for the first opening I could see, but nothing appeared One day, all of a sudden, I was sent for to a friends house, and there was a gentleman who occupied a coal yard in Weybridge, whose steward had betrayed his trust, and could not give a good account of his stewardship, and of course was turned out of it, in disgrace — They wished to know, whether I would undertake to superintend, to measure coals to keep the books, and to receive moneys, and to do what was required in such a situation. — I immediately under the situation, took the books, and keys &c, and litterally became, "a coal heaver" — I continued to preach on the Lord's days, and heave coals, and burn cinders &c on the week days, my Wife and daughter kept a little school, and We got our bread by the sweat of the face, in part at least — and God was often putting forth his kind hand of providence to help to supply our wants returning — — Thus we continued, until the latter part of the Summer of 1819, when I hired a house and shop, and was going to take up our abode there, and become quite people of business, as we supposed. ——

We removed into our new situation, and began to clear the way, to get ready for action, when a neighbour farmer rode up, and said, my friend Mr. C. has got a farm befallen him at such a place, and wants some one to go and live in the house, and superintend that small concern, and I thought of you, and mentioned you to him, as a suitable person.— This just took with my inclinations, and was what I much wished for. I went to the man, and agreed with him, came back and sent off my furniture, and he sent his waggon next morning, we loaded up our goods once more, and on the 11th of Oct. 1819, we were unloaded and at Black Notley near Braintree.— "God moves in a mysterious way His Wonders to perform."

Here I would pause awhile, and look back, through the last four years, and call to mind some things which I have passed by unnoticed.—

While I was at Rayleigh; I went home to Layton, to see my family twice.— Once on the Lord's day, I preached at Woodford twice, for which they gave me a guinea: and on the evening I preached at Stratford, for which they gave me half a guinea.— The other time Mr. D Bevin Esq. at Walthamstow, invited me to preach in his house, to his house hold, and as many friends as they chose to invite, for which he gave me a guinea and three scriptural maps, containing the journeys of the children of Israel, the division of the promised land and the Apostles' travels among the Gentile nations.— There were great kindnesses at such a time as this.—

The twelve months which I spent at Grays, I laboured hard at my Grammer, Geography and Arithmatic, as my labours in the villages was not much.— I had a Terestrial globe lent to me for the year, and having a natural turn and liking to it, I could set at home and travel round the world with Cook and others, I find it profitable. I never could hear, that my labors in preaching were made much useful to any in that neighbourhood, except it might be to a young female, whom I visited in her affliction for ten months, and after she departed, I was sent for from Weybridge, to preach her funeral.— When we went to Weybridge, I was obliged to take a large house, then standing empty, and the rent was £15— This was more than I wanted, but I could obtain no other. When we had been there six months, some one knocked at the door, and I went, when I saw a gentleman standing with a written notice for me to quit the premises within three months, which he read to me, and left it with me The gentleman was an attorney from Malden, sent by my landlord.— I thought, what can this mean?— I am not back with my rent, nor have I done or said any thing, to any one, to the best of my knowledge.— Well, this passed on, and I used every means in my power to obtain a cottage by the time, but could not succeed I knew I should be glad to get a smaller rent, as flour was £6 0 pr Sack all that Winter, and I had five children at home, and a £15— rent, I was hard set, to get on

Well, things went on, and time stayed for no one.—
I found out the riddle, and it was this.—I lived near
to the largest occupier in the parish, and he fancied,
that if I lived in that house twelve months, I and my
family would all belong to that parish, and perhaps
come upon them for relief.— so he prevailed upon my
landlord to make me quit, for which he repented after-
wards.

Well, I could get no house, of any description, and the
day came on.— We agreed all to leave the house, lock up
doors, and go and be in the meeting house, where I kept
a little school, and if they came, to turn us out, they
should break the door, and do as they pleased &c ——
We read and prayed, and sat down to breakfast, full
of thought ~~of course~~.— soon after we were set, there was
a knock at the door, and when I opened, there stood this
large occupier.— He said, don't you want a house?— I said
yes, but I cannot obtain one for my life.— He said,
there is one in the street now empty, where the old car
penter kept, and it is at the disposal of your friend
Mr B— and I believe it is at your service, if you go to him
I immediately went, found them then going to breakfast
and he called out "come and take part luck"— I sat down
with them, we agreed for the cottage at £6- rent, went
home, the farmer that came to the door, offered me
his carriage and horses and man,— and we turned to, and
by a little after twelve o'clock had cleared the premises
and got to our new habitation!!— Who can tell what a
day may bring forth!!"—— Thus is coming to the mount of dan
ger; where God is, and ever will be, "Jehovah Jirah"——

We lived in this cottage two years and a quarter, which made £25- difference in our rent, beside other comforts we enjoyed, which made it ~~good~~ better to be there, than in the great one.— My income from my employment, with what the people gave me for preaching, and some kind providencial favour the Lord was pleased to hand in, ~~we still~~ provided but sufficient for the day.— Flour was fallen again in price to £3- pr sack, and our family had began to decrease a little, so that we lacked nothing of things common.— One day my friend Mr B- had the Independent minister to his house, to sprinkle some of the youngest branches of his family, for which he presented to him, a £1- note,.. but he refused to take it and said, "if you wish to make me that present, give it to my poor brother over the way"— Mr B- came directly across the road to my cottage, and gave me the £1- note.— Another time when we were very low, a butcher rode upto the door, and took a leg of mutton out of his basket and gave me, and when I asked, "who sent it?"- he said, "I was not to tell that."— Many other such kind favours we received while here, which I might mention, but I forbear, and shall leave Hey bridge, and carry our attention forward, but not till I have recorded some few things, respecting my experience

For years before this, even before I left Tunstall, I had greatly doubted my call to the ministry, and that I ran into it, in a most thoughtless, and unbecoming manner; which thoughts I believe were too true, at least many of them.—

I thought I saw my call clearer to the ministry, since I received that letter from Mr Jarrett, than I ever did before. — Yet I was in a general way, so much tried to find texts to preach from, that I often thought, if the Lord had called me to the work, he would furnish me with texts. — I have often gone to the place of preaching and into the pulpit, and knew not what text to read. — This trial, (and a keen one it was to) accompanied me, if I say, twenty years in my poor ministry, more or less, I should not exaggerate, tho thro mercy, not always alike. I remember one time coming down from the pulpit, with a full determination, never to go on again, except I could be more satisfied respecting my call, nor did I attempt any more that day. —

At another time I recollect, searching and praying much & constantly attended close to, until late on the Saturday, when I threw down my Bible, and almost protested, I would ~~would~~ take it up no more, to attempt to preach; — but I went at the time, tho I knew not what to preach from, but at length, (perhaps while the Hymn was singing) I found that passage, where Rebeccah said, "If it be so, why am I thus?" — I seldom felt and enjoyed a subject more, and so it seemed the people did — I remember reading the life of good Abraham Booth — and I found he had been tried much, upon this same subject, so I found I was not alone. — I have envyed a dog at those seasons, and wished I was any thing else but a preacher. — O. that young ~~ministers~~ would thoroughly "count the cost, before they began to build."

Now let me return to Natley, and notice a few things which transpired there — I looked at my situation, and said, it was just what I wished for — A comfortable house and every thing so convenient, and I was got out of the work of the ministry, with about two miles to walk to chapel on the Lord's day, and the liberty to preach in a village, or to supply occasionally for a brother minister. House rent and tyring free, plenty of good beer for our use, and a tolerable salery, and a very good kind of man for my master, so that I was "exceedingly glad of this gospel." and sat down under it with too much delight, but soon found a Worm at the root. — — My strength seemed to fail, my feet, being upon the land so much soon failed me, till I found myself incapable of performing my duty in such a situation. — Still I said nothing, but kept on, and during the winter, got some of our daughters employment in the silk factory at Braintree. —

In order to shew the state of my mind, after I was at Natley, I copy a piece, I wrote on the Christmas eve. — Dec; the 24th 1799 This is what they call Christmas eve. 19 years ago, I was at cards, with a drunken party, — swearing and quarreling half the night. — I call to remembrance former days, and hope I view the hand of God, both in his providence and grace, which hath made me to differ from the world which lieth in wickedness. "Oh — to grace, how great a debtor." — How many changing scenes have I passed thro, in my short Pilgrimage. I could almost as well attempt to count the stars, as to number them, all up now. —

thro mercy I am very comfortable at Watley, in all re
spects, — I have not enjoyed so much peace and happiness
of mind, for years past, as I have done since I came hither —
"Bless the Lord O my soul, and forget not all his benefits"
My mind feels so much liberated, since I have not had
to preach constantly, my family is likewise, getting into
way to provide in part for themselves at the Silk works,
and thus the Lord is shewing himself, "Jehovah Jirah" still
Well, was I saying, I hope I shall die in this nest? — It
was evident, God was saying, "not so". ^ I think about
the latter end of Feb. 1820 I received a letter from Aldeburgh
saying, that a part of my Brethren Church at Aldringham
had left, and formed themselves into a church at Aldeburgh,
and there was a chapel, and they had provided a house for
us to live in, "Would I come and be their minister? —
I read it to my Wife, and without any hesitation, we soon fixed
a negative upon that. — That passed off, till I think on
the 2nd of March, I received another, which I opened and
read, and found it came from Tunstall. — This letter
stated, that they were then without a minister, and they
had met as a church and consulted matters, to know who they
should apply to, and the voice of the Church was, to send for
me, Would I come over and help them? — I went in, and
said to my Wife, I have got another letter from Suffolk,
Where do you suppose it came from? — She said from
Tunstall I expect, for I have always thought we should
go back there again. — Well, what shall I answer? replied
I. — "O" said she, "I dare not say I will not go there"

Oct. 15th 1849

Chap 8.

I answered the letter in a friendly manner saying, that I was very comfortably situated, and my family were got into employment near to me, and I could not see my way clear by any means to come at present.- I truly found a will, but could not see a way"- but I would ad vise them to get societies for a season, to meet often for prayer, and then to hold another church meeting, and let me hear from them again.- I also requested to know, if all old prejudices and animosities were done away on their part, and assured them that it was the call on mine, and if it should be the will of God, for me to come back at any future time, that their old things should all be buried, never to rise again to walk abroad, &c Well, this passed off, and I never heard another syllable in any way from them, for nine or ten weeks.— Of course I had given up all expectation, and thought they had obtained some one to preach to them; but in the month of May 1826, I received another letter to say, that they had taken my advice, they had made it a matter of prayer, and held church meetings, and the voice of the people was for me, if I could come &c — "And if I could not come for a constancy, would I come over and see them, and preach to them one or two sabbaths".— Now it had always been strongly upon my mind, and upon the mind of my wife also, that we should one day have to return to Sunstall again, and so it proved, in the fulness of time.—

I mentioned it to my employer, and he said he often thought
I might be better employed than ploughing his land" &c
My seeming difficulties all gave way as I came at them,
and I wrote to say, God permitting, I would be there, and
preach to them on the first Sabbath in June, which I did
from acts. the XV. 36 v. — "Let us go again and visit the brethren
and see how they do" &c. — We had a comfortable meeting, and
seemed to rejoice together. — The Baptist association was at
Aldwinghan, at my Brother's chapel on the Tuesday and
Wednesday following, where I met many of my old friends
and relatives, ~~and we seemed to rejoice together~~, after being
several years absent from each other. — I preached at Tun
stall four Sabbaths, after which they requested me to be
their pastor again. — I went home to my family, and
promised to return to them again, if I could find my way
clear, if not, I would write. — As I said before, every difficulty
removed as I came at it, and I could not say, I could not
go, and dare not say, I would not, tho I could sometimes
have willingly. — I returned and preached four or five
Sabbaths more, and then home again to see how things looked,
and so continued thro the summer, till Michaelmas time
came on, when things must come to a crisis. — Now came
on the heart rending time. — My salary at Tunstall, was
not sufficient to support all our family, and therefore must
leave our four daughters, two eldest and two youngest in the
silk works, chiefly to provide for themselves, and our Son,
who was apprentice to a collar maker, had begun to turn
out unruly, that we were obliged to have him released, and
take him with us &c."

I see before I started for Suffolk I wrote as follows.
June the 1.st/6 I have had another letter from Tunstale, and
have agreed to go over and preach to them next Lord's
day.— O that the Lord may be with us, for good, and shed
his love abroad in our hearts richly, and make it a joy
ful meeting to us all. — I have lately supplied at the
Baptist Chapel at Braintree, three Sabbaths, and at the
Independant Chapel one, for which services, I received £3—
which I found very needful to help me to ~~some~~ those things I
needed, and for my expenses into Suffolk &c

Well, as I said before, Michaelmas came on, and I had
taken a cottage for our daughters, and divided our furniture
between them and ourselves, I had also taken a cottage at
Snape for us, ~~but~~ three miles from the meeting house,
which made it laborious for us, and about Oct. 25.th 1820—
We arrived at our new habetation. — Before I came to
preach at Tunstall, some of the members had left, and
the congregation had fallen away, ~~and~~ so that the place was thin
attended. — At my first coming back, many of them in
those parts knowing me, came to hear for a few weeks, but after
awhile the place grew thine again, and my spirits
began to droop at it, and to wish I had not come back.—
But I was enabled to keep on, and to launch out into
the villages around considerably, and the congregation
increased all that first winter, till the place began to
be well filled.— I did not consent to become their pastor,
nor to administer the ordinances to them, untill the follow
ing good Friday, in April 1821, when we had it public
and a crouded congregation all the day.——

I can.t help looking back for a moment, upon the painful
struggles, when parting with that part of the family we left
behind.- True, the eldest daughter was in her 22nd. year, and
very capable of domestic concerns, yet to be thus seperated from them
(50 miles
perticularly the young ones, was heart breaking work..
Besides leaving a comfortable situation, as good as £1. pr week
and they could engage to give me only twelve shillings at Tunstall
with the benefit of the funds which was uncertain, and to
leave our family ~~to a merciful providence~~, at a distance of
50 miles, to come and undertake a small cause in the state
that it was, on them, was none of the smallest sacrafices to
make.- But I can say to this day, that I did it from good
motives, a clear conscience, and a conviction that it was my
duty, but by none I got repaid, evil for good, but my re
ward is on high, and God is witness to my sincerity.-
I find that the first time I wrote, after we were settled at
Snape, was as follows.- "Nov. 4th. Thro mercy we are brought
thus far,- Our journey has been wet and fatiguing, being
two days on the road, and sleeping two nights at public
houses, we have taken colds and felt worn out, but great
cause for gratitude to God for Journeying mercies &c
Our way looks dark, but I do feel more comfortable and
more at liberty in preaching at Tunstall, than I have
done any where else, since I left.- I have little room to
doubt, but it is the Lords doing to bring us back, and
that it was my duty to come, but for what end, is best
known to himself.- There is nothing that will satisfy
me so well here, as to see Christs kingdom increase, which
I hope He will let me see, if spared a little longer.-

Up P 56.

Soon after we settled at Snape, we began a day School,
~~and got~~ with a few Scholars, to help to provide things honest
in the sight of men — I was also anxious to retail corn
and other things, but for want of money, I could not
commence that business, for I could not get any one
to stand my friend, tho I tried to the utmost of my
power: — This I saw afterwards was the Lords doing,
and that the disappointment was good for me, for I
should have been brought into many difficulties,
which I mercifully escaped, ~~at this time~~. — —
I met with a situation for our Son, and put him
apprentice to a Shoe maker, but it turned out chefly
to sorrow and vexation of Spirit. — —
On the 18th of Dec. 1820, I Wrote after the following manner
"This is still a thorny road, and mortal Spirits are apt
to tire and faint", and I still find the path to the kingdom, a rough one. — Providence is still a mystery, but I
hope God will order our foot steps for us. — I feel a hope
that he is about to raise the ruined walls of his cause
at Tunstall, and that would give me more joy and satisfaction, than the increase of much oil and wine. —
The people collect together, both in our chapel, and in
the villages, till the places are too strait for us. —
O. that the Lord might make bare his holy arm, and
bring many to his footstool of divine mercy, and save
them with an everlasting salvation, in his Son Christ
Jesus. —

I have but little to record now, only as I have recourse to what I have written at times, as the Lord in His providence and grace has dealt with me and mine. —

Chap. 9.
1821. — Jan. 15th. — We are brought to see the beginning of another year, and in many instances, to see, the good hand of our God with us. — We are still giving us sufficient for the day, though we have not much means to bring much in, towards our own support. — In the midst of deserved wrath, he is remembering undeserved mercy, and mercy is rejoicing against judgment. — I can but harbour a hope, that He will again visit Tunstall in mercy, and bring many poor sinners to "repentance towards God, and faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ:" and make the hearts of many to leap for joy. — O. that He may hasten it in His time, and that his time may be near at hand. —

The people wish me to administer the ordinance to them, without any more public ordination, but for some reasons, I had rather wait, and have things done public again. —

Feb. 6th. — This day, for aught I know, I am 48. years of age. — I hope I have known Christ, for the last 20. years, But alas! — how little have I done to glorify Him, or to promote His cause! — What progress ~~did~~ I make in sin, the last 20. years I lived in it, and how diligent I was in the service of my old master Satan; but what have I done in 20. years for Him Who bled upon Calvary, to save my wretched soul! O. that I might be permitted to do more for his church, and to His glory, in my few remaining days to come. — —

March the 2nd. - Twelve months to day, since I received the first letter, from the people at Tunstall, to know if I would return to them, and preach, as they were destitute of a minister. — Providence has so ordered it, and I have cause to be thankful, for it, for I hope the Lord is collecting the people together under my poor ministry, beyond my expectation, in my old country, and among my own kindred and acquaintances. — He is still giving us food to eat, and raiment to put on, and I feel more comfort, and more liberty in preaching here, than I did in Essex. — I hope the Lord will still enlarge my views of divine truth, for I find I want a more extensive knowledge of the scriptures, with abilities to explain them to the people for their profit, and none can give me these things, but God the Holy Ghost, who "giveth liberally & upbraideth not"

The 5th. - yesterday I preached three times, but felt some inward weakness, which I am not much accustomed to, hope the Lord will strengthen the poor tabernacle for the Work and storms in the Wilderness. — Had a church meeting in the morning, and agreed to have the public ordination on good Friday. — Hope the Lord will be in the midst of us, and then it will be a good Friday to us all. - I find I may wear out my strength in this neighbourhood, for I have constant applications to preach in the different villages, and we are generally well attended. — But I had need to be careful of what strength I have, and pray to God to grant it to me, for 20 years to come. — —

March the 19th - We have had affections in our family, for these last three weeks, and my wife is still very unwell, but these are but light affections, and last but for a moment" C. that they may be truly sanctified to us, and all will be well.. Our circumstances at this time are very low, and I have several payments to make, but know not at present where the means are to come from - as I have only one sixpence by me.- Hope the Lord will still be, "Jehovah Jirah".-

April the 2nd.- Felt bound in the spirit twice yesterday, during the public services.- Had full congregations, but my spirits were low, and so they continue to day.- But the Lord is the same, and changes not.- - I am very unfit for the ministry, and except the Lord is pleased to fit me for it, I shall not be able to give satisfaction long.- I hope He will make out away for us, to pay every one their own, and to assist our family in Essex a little this summer; as I very much feel for them at times.- - I know well, that goodness and mercy followed us, for six years through Essex, and hope He will not forsake us, now returned to our native land again.- I have often thought I was a Jonah when I left, but God has brought me back, tho not in a Whale's belly, and I hope He will pardon what is past, and I feel willing to return to any, and every duty He is pleased to call me to, and hope He will make use of me for much good to these Ninevites here, so that it may all prove to the praise and glory of His grace at last -

April 21 -- Yesterday we had the ordination at Tunstall and I was once more publicly acknowledged as the pastor of that people. -- I hope this was the Lords doing, ~~though~~ as I have often been fearful, the other was too much my own, and other peoples' doing, for which I have often had to lament. -- I hope we had a good day upon the whole, with a crowded congregation all the day. -- Mr Churchyard of Chesfield, read ~~the scriptures~~ and prayed. -- Mr Squirrell of Sutton, stated the nature of a gospel church, and asked the usual questions. -- Brother Robt Wilson of Aldringham prayed the ordination prayer. -- Mr Cole of Otley preached to me, from Eccl XII -- 9. 10. 11 verses. -- Mr Payne of Ipswich preached to the people from Col IV & 7. -- Mr Lemmon of Woodbridge concluded the service by prayer. -- Thus ended ~~the~~ the solemn services of a day, which I hope will be remembered for good by many, and O. that it may be made evident by next good Friday, by many precious souls being brought to Christ for salvation, and added to the church by Baptism. and others who have strayed from the fold, be brought back to take their places in the church again. -- --

On the 7th of May, I Baptized five persons, and received them into the church, and ~~the~~ administered the Lord's Supper; ~~and~~ the congregation was too large for the place so that some had to go away for want of accommodation. --

What the Lord intends to do with us, ~~and~~ by us, and for us, is best known to himself, but surely, "if he had meant to destroy us, he would not have shewn us such things as he has, nor received such offerings at our hands." --

I continued to labour in the ministry, both at Sunstall and in the ajacent villages, and sometimes my health and strength would considerably fail me, at other times I felt a little stronger.- I had borrowed £5- when I put our son apprentice, and I expect, promised to pay it again at such a time, and I was agreat advocate for punctuality it was always a goad in my eyes.- We began to be very bare of clothing, and other things needful for our use, and began to be in straits, and the people did not attempt to advance my little salery, tho the congregation increased very much.- But the Lord was pleased to send me £5- from the London Home mission society, and £3- from Dr Newman, from the parliamentary grant.- Thus I was enabled to meet my promise and go on again.- We had a letter from our family ~~in Essex~~, saying that our eldest daughter but one, was afflicted with bad legs, and can not work at her Loom, and of course wants some help, but it is not in my power to help her at present, my way is hedged up, and I must wait till God is pleased to open it ~~my way~~.- When I feel so unwell and exhausted, I sometimes wish I could leave this world altogether, but think again, my family, and the church would want me, poor creature as I am, and then I cry, "O. spare me a little longer, and let me recover strength, before I go hence to be no more".- God has always appeared for us, if we have been enabled to wait, but the hardest work is to wait the time.- O. that sin of unbelief, what an enemy to all our comforts and enjoyments here below.

Sept. 18th I am just returned from paying our children a visit ~~in Essex~~, and from seeing some of my old friends there. I found our children pretty well, but not able to provide for themselves comfortably, nor have I it in my power to assist them as I could wish. I feel it hard work to be seperated such a distance from them, and not able to help them as I could desire. — I at times feel somthing ready to say, the Lord deals hardly by us, but hope He will one day appear for us, and put it in our power, to help our family a little more, and appear a little more respectable ourselves. — But these things must be hushed to silence, and we must endeavour to be content with our lot, and submit to divine appointments. —

"I know what he appoints is best
Yet murmur at it still." —

I feel as though my life would be, a continued scene of sufferings more or less, on account of my health and spirits being so much broken up, but hope I shall arrive safe at last, in that fair country, "Where the inhabitants shall no more say I am sick." "the people shall be forgiven their iniquities." — I greatly feel the ~~arduous~~ nature of the work of the ministry, and often wonder how I am to continue in it, with any degree of honour to God or credit to his church. I frequently use the language of that good man when he cried, "O. Lord I am oppressed undertake for me". — I should be so thankful, if the Lord would strengthen my nerves and spirits a little.

once more. —

Oct 23.– I still continue to be greatly distressed in spirit, night and day, so that my happiness is but little here.– Chief of the comfort which I find, is when I am comfortable in the services of my God.– But alas! that is but too seldom.– When I attempt to pray, I feel but little heart for it, and when I attempt to preach, it is much the same, and ~~in fact,~~ so it is in all the duties, which I endeavour to perform.– –unbelief, hardness of heart, mistrust of Gods goodness, hard thoughts of his dispensations, and sometimes tempted to disbelieve the scriptures, and the reality of religion ~~itself~~ altogether, and almost the existance of a supreme being.–

"you who love the lord indeed,
Tell me, is it thus with you?"–

Thus is some of my sad experience by the way, but not all, and where the scene will end, God only knows.– I think sometimes, surely if such a being as I can enter the kingdom of heaven, any body may. If I should get safe to glory, eternity will be too short, to praise god for his goodness, in bringing me there safe.–

Dec– 7th My hopes respecting Tunstall, are a little revived. Four of the old members who had left, have returned and taken their places again, ~~last church meeting~~.– Our place is quite well attended, and some appear to be hearing for themselves.– I think if the Lord should help us through till after next Michaelmas, I shall have to preach from those words. "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us".– My mind thro mercy, has felt better for the last month, which is a great relief to me,– "The mind is the standard of the man."

Jan. the 11 - 1822. The Lord has spared us through another year and brought us to the beginning of the present. - I have been called to the painfull work of parting with my beloved brother, who was pastor of the Baptist Church at Aldringham, for the last ten years, and very useful there. I was with him when he breathed his last, I have no doubt but he was upon the rock of ages, trusting alone on Christs atonement and righteousness for his acceptance before God. - He did not think himself dying till the last, and therefore said but little, nor did any one think his end was so near. - A strong robust man, in the prime of life, cut off apparently in the midst of life and usefulness, and I, though the elder in years, and in profession, my constitution wrecked, and my mind and spirits emaciated, and yet left to drag up and down in this troublesome tiresome wilderness a little longer! - I am requested to preach his funeral sermon on the 13th Inst, from 2 Tim. IV. & 7th "I have finished my course &c" - The mysteries of grace and of providence, are too deep for our poor short lead and line to fathom, or stretch a thought half way to God. -

The Lord has been kind to us in his providence this new year, in sending some little presents to help us, for the which I desire to feel thankful. - Had I but more gratitude for what he does give, I might receive more from his bountiful hand. - I must give up my little school, it fatigues me much, and hurts my spirits, and comes to but little account. - My village labours are great and increasing, and I have more than I know how to attend to

Feb 4th.– I have every reason to hope, ~~that~~ the Lord is mindful of us at Tunstall.– The cause seems to begin to prosper.– Numbers are flocking to hear the word, till our place is too small to contain them on the Sabbath days, and some are coming forward, and telling us, what God hath done for their souls.– Five were Baptized yesterday and added to the church, and some more proposed for Baptism, till I feel ready to say, "What hath God wrought!" and what is he about to do for us, and by us!.–

yesterday I also received a lette: from Mr. D Beom Esqr at Walthamstow, with a £5. note, and a box containing a suit of clothes for me, this was also the Lords doing, and marvelous in our thoughts!.– No people have more reason for thankfulness than we have, but perhaps few with so little gratitude. "What is man, that God is thus mindful of him"?––Sure he is a God of long sufferings and full of compassion towards, beyond many.–

April the 8th. The Lord is still very kind to us in every respect.– I have lately received £7.– from the baptist fund in London, which enabled me to pay my half years rent, and to get a few things which we needed so that we stand pretty clear from debt now.– It is a very great pleasure to me, to live up to the Apostles rule, "owe no man any thing".– We are much crouded at our chapel, and have begun to subscribe towards putting in two side galleries, hope the Lord will help us through with it, in an honourable way.– The expences will be £35. and we have got three fifths of it, before we begin.–

July the 29th.— I have often found Mr. Bunyan's words true.— "The christian man is never long at ease—

Before one trouble is ended, another doth him seize.— For the last month, my trials have been great, my health has been very indifferent, and my mind and spirits very low.— Our son tries us much,— and his master turns out dishonest, and has cast him upon me, because he disobeyed, and I have been to the magestrates, but can get no redress at present;— I have paid £10— with him, and cannot recover that, so I have lost my money, and the lad is thrown upon us, which is a great grief ~~to us~~, but it seems we must bear it.— I have felt great misgivings of heart, and too much rebellion against God, "to see the wicked prosper in all they take in hand, while they are daily blaspheming God's holy name.— yet they triumph and say in effect, "who is Lord over us?" I wish I could feel more of a christian spirit under these pinched trials,]in but I believe it would be much better for me, and more to the glory of God.— But I can't help thinking sometimes, that God has given me up into the hands of the wicked, whose tender mercies are cruel indeed.— But hope he will one day appear for me, and deliver me out of their hands.— My mind is also greatly tired for subjects to preach from, and cannot get any thing till the very last, tho I search and try to the utmost on my power.— I often cry, O that I were any thing but a preacher!— yet the Lord seems prospering my poor endeavours at Tunstall, and in the villages around me, until I am constrained to confess his hand, and wonder at his goodness from day to day.——

64 Oct. 25th.- I find we are in a wilderness still, and there
must expect wilderness fare.- But I have greatly to lament
that I feel so much of a wilderness temper and disposition
so prone to murmer, to complain, and to distrust my God.
Almost ready to quarel with the dispensations of his provi
dence, and then perhaps to think, "I do well to be angry"
If the Apostle felt as I too often do, I don't wonder at his
"
pray as he did, in the VII chap. to the romans.- I am afraid
of myself, least I should "indulge iniquity in my heart,
and then God will not hear my prayers".- O. the hardness
of a sinners heart, the rebellion of his nature, and the ob
stinacy of his will!"- None can tell it, but that God, who
"searcheth the hearts, and trieth the reins of the children of
when
We have concluded to enter into the shoemaking trade, and get
a man who understands it, and endeavour to learn our son at
home.- How we shall succeed, God only knows -
December 27th "The years roll round and steal away
The breath which first they gave."
A few years more, must terminate this mortal existance I know
"Well, if ye must be sad and few
Run on my days in haste"
Moments of joy or months of woe
ye cannot fly too fast."
But though we have our trials, and a considerable measure ed
ment
ant to us, yet we have many mercies mixed with them.- I have
been into Essex, to see our family there, and they have been af
flicted and tried in their situations.- This land is sown with
the seeds of affliction, and therefore we must expect them to
grow.

Feb. 6th 1823. - I suppose, according to all accounts, I am this day 50-years of age. - "Few, and full of evil, have the days of the years of my life been" - Two and twenty years have elapsed, since I began to make a profession of Religion, but alas! - what a poor progress have I made in the ways of God, during that time, and how little have I done for Him, who hath done such great things for me and mine. - When I look back, and attempt to retrace my steps, and think of my slips and failings, with my sins of omission and commission, it makes me cry, "Who can understand his errors, cleans thou me from my secret faults". - The more I look back upon these things the more I say with the church of old, "my soul hath them still in remembrance, and is humbled in me". - But after all this, I have to sing of the richness and freeness of distinguishing grace, which hath made me to differ, and taught me these things, or I had never known them. - I am sure, if every one who professes to know christ, had made such bad use of their knowledge, and walked so crookedly, had felt their plague of heart, their rebellious dispositions, and their mistrustful tempers as I have done, they would not have a Lamb to sacrafice to their own net, nor any Incence to burn to their own drag", but to sing with the poet, "O. to grace, how great a debtor" &c. - God is still very kind to us in His providence. - During the last month, I received £5- from the Society for encouraging village preaching, which was of great use to us, at this time. Our people at Tunstall have agreed to raise me two shillings p^r week more, which will make it fourteen: - ~~This they did very~~ reluctantly, but God has the hearts of all in His hands. - -

April 2nd.— Altho I have not written any thing down for nearly two months, it is not because God has not done any thing for us, but perhaps I have been negligent.— Several kind providences have occurred, for the which we have great cause for thankfulness, and to "sing of mercy and of Judgment."—

We have been, and still are, surrounded by afflictions and deaths, but they have not much entered our dwelling place. I meet with some keen trials in our little business, which I did not expect, which give me pain of mind, night and day, but I relate ~~but~~ little of those feelings to any creature, God knows my trials, and I hope he will deliver me out of them all.— I pay every attention to every thing in my power, and I can do no more.— Happy for us, when our trials lead us to God in good earnest, and cause us to cry "Thou hast delivered me out of all that has come upon me, O leave me not to sink in disgrace under this."—

May the 4th. The Lord is still very kind to us, but I have greatly to lament my leaness ~~and~~ barrenness and unfruitfulness in the good things of God.— I find but little heart for God in prayer, or in any thing which I perform.— Instead of my growing in grace, and being more heavenly minded, my soul cleaveth too much to the dust of earthly things.— "O Lord, quicken thou me according to thy Word."— Our youngest daughter's health seems much upon the decline, ~~and~~ we fear it is the scrofula, and may prove of bad consequence, but hope to be resigned to the will of God, who is the Judge of all, and must do right.— We have had a long and trying Winter, and a cold and backward spring.— I wish my heart was not too much like the season.— The Lord is still proving himself to be "Jehovah Jirah, the Lord will provide," but my mistrustful heart is saying, he will not.— "Let God be true and every man a liar."—

June the 12th – The first week in this month, we met in an asso-
tion at Clare in this County, where we had a pretty comfortable
meeting upon the Whole — We heard of the chequered scenes
which the churches are passing through, with the prosperity and
adversity that attends us in this uncertain world, but we are told
"that God has set the one over against the other" —
I hope upon the whole, the Baptists are upon the increase
in this county, and that it may prove, "the increase of God."
The association did not vote any thing for Sunstall this year,
I suppose they think it is high time, for them to help themselves
and in fact, I must think so too – We are well attended in these
parts, and hope the Lord is among us for good, as we are often
having additions to our church, but the more some people are help
ed, the less they will help themselves. —

July 16th – My mind continues in a very tried state, that I scarcely
know how to bear up under it at times. — About a fort night back
I was very uncomfortable about subjects, and texts to preach from,
and being so tried the Lords day before, from the same quarter, I
was ready to conclude, it would always be so with me, or worse. —
I thought if I could but give up the ministry, and every thing
else in the church and in the world, and lie down and die in des
pair, I should be thankful. — But when the time came, a little
light began to dawn upon my mind, and I had a pretty comfortable
day, and so it seemed with the people. — Satan and unbelief, try
me greatly on that ground, but the Lord is often better to me than
my fears. — I find the worst part of my work is, taking up
my crosses so long before I come at them, and that makes them
so heavy, because I have to carry them so far; and a light weight
carried far, makes it appear heavy. — I often wish I was wiser, then I
should not be so great a fool. —

August 19th - My path day is far from a smooth one, but it will be a mercy if it proves a safe one at last. - one thing I know, if it grows no smoother, I must get nearer to the end of it, whatever that end may be. -- I was this morning, when upon my knees before God, thinking on the solmn subject of death, and my soul seemed to tremble at the thought, and to wonder how it will go with me then. -- What, if after all my toils and troubles, my gifts and pretentions to religion, "I myself should be a cast away"! -- If I should see many to whom I have preached the salvation of christ, warning them of their danger, and exhorting them to flee from the Wrath to come, stand at Christs right hand, and I myself shut out! -- I should then have to say. "O. wretched state of deep despair"

To see my God remove
And fix my doleful station there
I must not taut his love"

I often hope I have tasted of his love here, times and often, but if I am only permitted to taste of the streams, and never to drink at the fountain head, "I shall be of all men the most miserable"

Oct. 23d. - Michaelmas is once more past and gone by forever, and the Lord hath helped us through beyond our expectation. I have been enabled to pay my way within a few pounds and think of continuing our little business for another year and see how things will go with us then, if spared, tho we have our trials accompanying it. - I often feel barren and unfruitful in soul concerns, and often at a loss for subjects to preach from, and how to divide my subjects, and bring out of them, the meaning of the Holy Ghost in them. O. that God would grant me a double portion of His Spirit, and abilities to go through with the great work I have taken in hand, to His own Glory. --

1824.- Jan 1st.- We are brought to see the beginning of another year and have great cause to sing of goodness and of mercy.- The trials which we have passed thro in the past, are gone by forever, what we have to meet with in the present are known to God, but wisely hidden from us.- O. how well has God ordered all things in time, that we should not know, "even what a day may bring forth" much less a year.- Last evening, I opened another house for preaching at that dark place of Oxford, was well attended, and pretty peaceable.- Perhaps twelve years ago, we had a house for preaching here before, and I preached regularly once a fortnight, for eighteen months, But "I toiled all that long night, and caught nothing", except it were stones and other missiles, with which hooting & every other abuse. The inhabitants have followed me, after I have done preaching, a good half mile, and pelted me with stones, as a remuneration for my services.- Nevertheless I have ventured again, to let down the net," with a hope that some fishes may be at hand now.- Our trials thro the past year, were far from light to flesh and blood, but "hitherto the Lord hath helped us".- Our church and congregation keep together pretty well, but some uncomfortable things are taking place, which bring reproach upon the cause and make the ways of God evil spoken of.- What an imperfect state is this!" What a different country to that, into which the saints shall enter at death.- O. when shall I awake, and find me there?- Our little business goes on, as well as might be expected, for ought I can see, but I sensibly find, there is a crook in the lot.- Perhaps "bonds and afflictions will abide us in every place", in which we sojourn here.- O. that I may walk nearer to God in his own ways, be more useful in his church in the present year, than in that which is past.- "What have I done, for him that died
To save my wretched soul?"-

Feb. 3rd. - About 23 years to day, since I hope I first felt the love of God shed abroad in my heart, and ever it became precious to me. - What poor returns of love hath He received from me since that time, and how often may He justly have said of me, as of the church at Ephesus, "thou hast left thy first love". - He hath led me in paths which I knew not before, and my march has been far Wandering round, but I hope it will prove right at last. - What a mercy that God rests in his love to sinners, and tho mine has often changed, his continue the same. - Many have been the changes of its manifestations towards me, or in my experience, but as it centers in Christ, it is like himself, "the same yesterday to day, and will be forever". - My old friends, Mr & Mrs Lewis, with whom I used to take sweet counsel, are then gone, I hope to glory, but I am left a little longer here, to bear the burden and heat of the day, and then I hope to join them. -

April 8th - I am just returned from preaching at two of my village stations, viz. Sweeting and Benhall. - They were both well attended, and we had comfortable meetings. When I entered the former place, I met Mr B. the curate, who gave me his hand, and told me that Mr. H. the Vicar wished to see me. I told him, God willing, I would call on him tomorrow morning. - Accordingly I called, but the Vicar was not at home, but Mrs H. presented me with a £5 - note, and some clothes, which Mr. H. had brought from London for me. - It seems, he was in conversation with some religious friends there, and mentioned my case to them as a needy one, and they had thus contributed towards my necessities. - "This was also the Lords doing, and marvelous in my eyes". -

June 15th — I am afraid I have been too forgetful of Gods mercies to me and mine, for I have not noted any thing down for two months past — A larger portion of health has been granted to us than usual, ~~for some time past~~, with many other favours which we are unworthy to receive — I attended our association at Bury St Edmonds, where I spent a comfortable opportunity — The circular letter which I wrote, is to be printed, which will be the first thing I ever wrote for the press* — The association gave me £5 — for which I desire to be thankful to them, as stewards under God — I have cause often to chide my unbelieving wicked heart for mistrusting God so much, and yielding to unbelieving fears. Our place of worship is often crouded to excess, and we cannot find room for the people within the walls — It seems wonderful that God should incline the hearts of so many, to come and hear such a babler as I, and what he intends to do, is best known to himself. Of late I hope I have enjoyed considerable more liberty and comfort in preaching, with more peace and tranquility of mind, than aforetime, and do hope God will enlarge my heart

* See Appendix

Aug 4th — our way in this World, often seems thorny, and of course, subject to many changes. It is evident that the things of this World, are not what they appear to be, Hence when we think we obtain any thing as our own, we soon find a worm at the root of our gourd, which we did not perceive till the gourd began to wither, and we began to feel our expectations blasted, and our hopes cut off. Then it is, that we can sing the Doctors love song indeed

"How vain are all things here below,
How false and yet how fair, —
Each pleasure hath its poison too
And every sweet a snare!" —

We are not aware of Satan's paint brush, nor how fair he can paint things, and what a false gloss he can put upon these things which are seen, and what a mist he can draw over heavenly realities. He can paint old temptations over with new colours, and make them appear new to the eye of sense, and nature is so prone to lay hold of the bait, that it is almost sure to be taken with the hook. — I have found myself generally disappointed, in every earthly enjoyment, where my expectations have been in any measure raised, but never met with a disappointment, when I have been rightly led to trust in God, and wait patiently for Him. — I have always found those words correct, which the good man spoke "It is better to put your trust in the Lord, than to put confidence in man." A few weeks ago, I did hope, my pathway was about to be a little smoother; "But pricking thorns thro all this ground,
And mortal poisons grow,
And all the rivers that are found,
With dangerous waters flow"

Others have found it so before me, or they could not have spoken and written as they have, and doubtless others will find it so, after my head is laid low in the dust, from whence man was first taken. — It is a mercy that saints have not to live in this World 600 years now or more, but God hath mercifully shortened those days of tribulation, "for the elects sake". —

"yet the dear path to Thy abode,
Lies thro thus horrid land, —
Lord I would keep the heavenly road,
And run at thy command." —

Oct. 18th "From fear to hope, and hope to fear,
My ship wreckt soul is tost.t.
Till I am tempted to despair,
And gave up all for lost."—

I have been afflicted for these last ten days, and kept from my place of worship, two Lord's days, which I never have been before, since I returned to Tunstall.— But I have often gone, when I have been very unwell, but the Lord has helped me through.— During the months of August and September, I was very unwell, but kept my place, and got better.

My experance under this affliction, has been trying to me in part.— When I was first taken, I felt greatly resigned to the Will of God, and felt no Will of my own, or wish to alter the design of God, of lifting up one hand would have done it.— But alas!— how little time did this temper of mind continue?— But a few days had elapsed, when I felt quite the contrary, I could neither pray nor read nor think about God and good things, or converse about soul concerns, or give a reason of the hope that was in me, to any.— I thought my affliction was sent to harden, instead of softening, and to be the savor of death unto death, instead of life unto life". But I hope He don't intend to destroy me after shewing me such things as he has.— My health is better, and I hope Godwilling to be able to preach once on Lord's day, and hope he will both prepare and assist me through. Our son seems unsettled, he has left us some months, to work at his business,— but now we hear he is going to sea.— It is all his own choice, and I hope the Lord will preserve him. since I have been writing this, a kind friend called, and gave me five shillings, this also was the Lord's doing and unexpected to me.— "God moves in a mysterious way;
His Wonders to perform".—

Dec. 21th

My Warfare still continues, and my conflict with sin and satan, often seems too strong for me, that I am sometimes thrown down by them, and left to groan under mine infirmities. — Last Lord's day week, the 12th inst. was one of the dark days before Christmas to me, for I felt all the day, a hardness and barrenes of soul, through all the services of the day both private and public. — When I went into the pulpit in the afternoon, I knew not what to preach from, and when they had sung a second time it was the same. — At length I read those words, that Christ said to the woman, "be of good comfort, thy faith hath saved thee". — What I said from them, I know not, but perhaps "darkened counsel, with words without knowledge". — In the evening I felt but little better, and all the night long I suffered with the face ache, till almost distracted. — O. the tortures of mind and body which I felt during that day and night, but few can tell. Well, that's gone by, and what a mercy it was not eternal!! —

Dec. 31st — Another year is nigh rolled away, perhaps the last with me. I am constrained to sing of goodness and of mercy during the past, but the future is all to me unknown. — God knows all that will transpire, even to the falling of a sparrow, but I cannot tell what a day may bring forth". — O. What a wonder working God, is the Christian's God!! — He has marked all my paths which I have to tread in, but I don't know one step he has appointed for me. — "He setteth a print upon the heels of my feet,

"Tho dark be my way, he'l still be my guide,
'Tis mine to obey, 'tis his to provide,
By prayer let me wrestle, and he will perform,
With christ in the vessel, I'l smile at the storm". —

Yet I am sometimes afraid my poor shattered bark will never reach the port at last, it is sometimes so full, I fear it will sink before I get into the harbour. —

Feb 7th - Yesterday I arrived at the age of 52 years, and 24 in my pilgrimage - Singular to have two birth days in one day - I Baptized three persons yesterday, one of them had been a member of an Independant Church, for more than 30 years - The weather was severely cold, and I felt my nature shrink at it, but strength was given me, and I seldom went thro the ordinance of baptism with more pleasure, nor enjoyed a much better day altogether. Our place was well attended and the people very attentive, and I hope we shall hear of good resulting from it. - My mind has been better for the last fortnight, and O. how I do beg that the Lord may strengthen me a little again before I go hence, to be no more here. - - - I received a note from Mr Payne of Ipswich to say, he has received £5 for me, from the Home missionary society, I hope to call on him next week God permitting, and to preach for him, on the Wednesday evening. - The sea and rivers have overflowed their banks in these parts, and all our marshes and low lands are inundated, and one poor fellow intoxicated, has lost his life. - "Even the winds and the seas obey our Lord," but we cannot control them, or keep them in bounds. - - -

Feb. 22nd. I have still to "stand still and see the salvation of God". In addition to the £5 mentioned before, Squire Beevor has sent me five more, which has enabled me to purchase a small Poney, with which I hope to get about my village labours with more ease and pleasure. - I hope I shall not be left to set my affections too much upon that, or any thing else here, least God should take them away, as he did Jonahs gourd, for I know He will not allow his children to have Idols. - I am so frequently much tried for subjects to preach from, and O. how I have besought the Lord, to take away that thorn, "but He is of one mind, and Who can turn Him". -

March 28th -- The Lord is still good and gracious to us.—
When I look back and remember the plough tail and the muck
cart from whence I was taken, I can but think of the words of
the Psalmist. "Thou hast taken the beggar from the dunghill
and set him among princes, even the princes of thy people!"—
I ought to be humble, and lie at his feet, as dead to all things
here but to Himself, who hath done such great things for me
But had He done all this, and much more in providence, so
that I had more than heart could wish, and the left me deste
tute of the one thing needful, I might be of all men the most misse
rable". —But under a hope that he certainly hath done great things
for my soul, in delivering me from the powers of darkness, and
translating me into the kingdom of his dear son Jesus Christ,
I have reason to speak loudest of His mercy here, and when He
takes me to that better country, to sing loudest to the grace which
steered me through this ocean of trouble and sorrow. —

April 22nd. - Last evening I licenced another place at Oxford
on purpose for preaching, and we have got a little pulpit and
some seats, it is quite a little chapel, for which we are to pay rent
I preached from 1 Kings, XVIII & 43. 44. — The little cloud rising out
of the sea &c. I had a comfortable opportunity, and after it
was over; a young man came to me, who seemed much affected
under the discourse, even drenched in tears. — Happy should I be
if it should prove the work of God.* I felt an earnest and unusual
spirit of prayer before I went, that God might bless the Word that
night, and I think it is evident He did. — Long ago have I felt such
an earnest desire to see a cause raised at Oxford, and who can tell? —

*. This has been proved to the satisfaction of all, long since then. —

June the 10th - Our association was held at Tunstall this month for the first time, and we had a pretty comfortable meeting, The concourse of people was large, it was thought nearly 2.000 were collected together on the second day. - We had the public services on the open common, but the weather being very hot, made it burdensome for many. -- When Mr. Thomason of Grundisburgh engaged in prayer, he petitioned, "that God would send a cloud, that might serve as an umbarella, to screen us from the beams of the noon day sun". - It was somewhat remarkable but so it was, that very soon after this pray. was offered, a cloud interposed and screened us much, during the services of that day. This was noticed by so many, both professors and profane, that it has often been heard, as the topic of conversation. ——

God is still very kind to us at Tunstall. - Our place is thickly attended and we hope good is doing. - May God send us a good year to come that at our next association if spared, we may have good news to tell them. - I think just before this time, our people had agreed to raise my salary to £1 - per week, and I felt such a liberation from the burdensome task of being necessitated to call upon the funds for help yearly, that I rejoiced as one that had found great spoil. My wife and I Godwilling, are thinking of journeying into Essex to see our children there, and hope God will give us journeying mercies and christian friendship by the way, and a safe return. -

July 25th - We are returned from Essex, and thro mercy, found that part of our family pretty well - Our Girls all turn out pretty steady, but our son turns us to much sorrow; - In fact, it is a bitter drugg, in all the sweets we taste. - But God knows what is best for us, and O may He will turn his heart. -- My wife came home very unwell from her journey, and continues to get worse every week, till I fear I shall be deprived of her, by death ere long. ——

Sept 9th – Our Journey is still accompanied with adversities mingled with many mercies – My partner in life continues very ill, ~~nothing better but rather worse in health~~ – But she is much more comfortable in ~~her~~ mind, and has had some sweet seasons from the presence of the Lord, so that what she has related, has made my soul rejoice in God my saviour – I hope I can leave her now in the Lords hand, believing He will do what is best for us, and most for his own glory in the end.

Sept 15th – I have met with several kind providences of late, for which I desire to feel thankful – Last Lord's day, I preached at Grundesburgh, and spent a comfortable time I hope –

My kind friend Mr. Le~~a~~k invited me to his house, and treated me very kindly, and when I left him, he gave me seven shillings as a token of friendship and respect – When I returned home a small parcel had been left at my house, containing a Letter, with a few lines, to beg my acceptance of it, but no name to it – Thus the Lord is handing on to our returning days in the time of our afflictions – My dear Wife continues very bad, and her affliction is of a very painful nature, and which way it will terminate, God only knows – We have great cause to bless the Lord for giving great patience under great sufferings. O that they may hold out to the end, and all will be well –

Sept 26th ~~Monday~~ – yesterday I had hard work three times – on Saturday, and Sabbath morning, I was ~~d~~racked in my mind about texts to preach from, and could get nothing – I opened upon Matt. XXII – and when I read the 11th verse, where the man had not on the wedding garment, I burst into tears, threw my Bible down, and considered I was the man – I went into the pulpit but knew not what to preach from, opened upon the XXVIII Psl, read it, and preached from the 5th verse, as God gave me utterance –

Nov 21st - Referring to the last circumstance, viz on the XXII of Matt 11th verse, I preached from it on the following Lords day, and enjoyed a comfortable opertunity. - I found some honey on the carcas of that Lion which roared so loud against me ten days before, and carried a little of it to the people at Tunstall, and I hope they they did eat. - Thus out of the strong temptations and trials that a minister has to struggle with, come forth some sweetness to himself and others. - Thus it was with the Apostle. - All his afflictions and temptations, thorns in the flesh, and messengers from Satan to buffet him, all turned out to the benefit of the churches, and for the furthering of the gospel." - "God is still very kind to us in his providence, and gracious to us by his grace. - He has raised my partner in life in great measure to her health again, and provided comfortable for us thus far. - I still find hard work in the ministry, and often much tried for subjects to preach from, but I still struggle on, tho slowly. - Last evening I preached at Orford, had a good congregation, and very attentive. - I Hope God will make my labours useful in that dark sea port, so that a cause of christ may be raised there to his honour any glory. - Through mercy, I hope God is prospering my poor endeavours in this my native country, by bringing poor sinners to repentance unto life, and adding them to his church here. - O that they may prove to be plants of His own right hand planting. - We expect our son home from sea now soon, God willing, We have often prayed ~~prayed~~ and hoped, that it might turn out for good, but cannot tell. - The Lord is a Sovereign, and has a right to do as he pleases with his own." - Our trials from that Quarter have been heavy, but who can tell"

1826. Jan 5th I have neglected to write for some weeks past
not because I have not had fresh instances of the Lords
kindness to me and mine, but because I have been forgetful
of his mercies. — My health has been impaired this last fort.
night by a bad cold, and I still continue very unwell. —
My mind also feels in a very dark state, and I fear there is
but little prospect of its being much otherwise. — But God
can clear the darkest skys, can give the mourners rest." —
For some weeks past, I have felt my mind ~~wind~~ pretty peace
able, spiritual and heavenly, but now I have too much lost
the savour of those best things again, and am ready to
hang up my harp upon the willows, to take it down no more
till I get safe thro the valley of the shadow of death, and O.
that at "evening time, it may be light with me," then all
will be well at last. —

Chap 13. Feb 13th My two birth days are again passed by, and I reckon
myself to have passed fifty three milestones on my journey
thro life, and twenty five in my pilgrimage. — But O. what little
progress have I made, in the divine life! — I seem to myself but
a babe in the kingdom of grace, while I feel getting old and full
of infirmities in the flesh, and no one can think, but those who
have felt something of the same, the number of infirmities
which I have to groan under, both in private and in public —
Well it appears evident, the Lord is blessing my poor endeavours
by bringing some to the knowledge of the truth, that for one
things ~~of course~~, tends to bear me up, thro the deeps, which I
am called to wade, and He who hath borne me thus far, I hope
will not leave me, now hoary hairs begin to appear. —

March 27th Yesterday I hope was a good day to us at Tunstall, especialy at the church meeting in the morning, when three persons returned to take their places in the church again, and three were received by letter from other churches, and three related their experiences, with a view to be baptized, and I hope the Lord was ~~evidently~~ among us of a truth. — We have a great attendance and several are waiting to come in. — It has been much impressed upon my mind, that the Lord has a great work to do here among us, and for us. — I have thought I could see, a large load of sheaves coming in, that our barn (or chapel) will not be large enough to hold them. — O that they may come in due season, and be a welcome load of joyful sheaves." — My family trials are some what easier at this time thro mercy, ~~but how long it may be so, best known to God.~~ — It is a rule when people are fighting, to have a minute's respite after a knock down, but I can seldom get up from one blow, before I receive another. — What a mercy it will be, if I should be more than conqueror at last, and it will be little short of a miracle also, and all thro Him who loveth me. Two hand presents sent me, by two friends. — One sent me half a load of firing, the other two pigs. — this was also the Lords doing, and I hope I feel thankful to my friends also —

May the 11th — I have been spending many comfortable hours in reading Gurnals Christian in complete armour. — some places it reproves me much for ingratitude. It says, the more mercies we enjoy, the more thankful should we be". — But I fear, I am not so thankful now, as when I had less. — I fear that text stands against me "Of the Rock that begat thee, thou art unmindful". — Last Lords day I Baptized six persons, four returned and took their places again, and three were received by letter. — These are great things for us, and I hope our hearts are glad for them.

June 26th — I once more attempt to record the goodness of God to me an mine. — I ought to be sorry that I am so forgetful, but since my sal lery has been raised to a £1 - pr week, I am apt to pass by many thing unnoticed. — When I had to go as it were, without purse or scrip, or bre from week to week upon His providence, I was much more watchful of His hand, in all that came to me, and thankful for the smallest favours. — But now the Manna falls so regular every day alike, that I am apt to call it "light food," or set too lightly by it. — My health seems rather better upon the whole, ~~and who can tell, but the Lord may recover it a little now,~~ "before I go hence, to be no more." My wife is quite recovered, after a long affliction, and I hope the Lord will yet spare her for my sake, and the family's. — Our church continues pretty peaceable and prosperous, and I hope the Lord may keep us so for years to come. — Our association is gone by once more pretty comfortable, but some of the churches are in an unsettled state, and decreasing, instead of increasing, and without ministers. — What an uncertain country is this! — Things in the World, nor in the church, continue long in one stay. — O. that God may prepare me for a better country than this, even a heavenly one. — I still feel the work of the ministry a very anxious one, but the Lord still helps me on. —

Aug 23rd — I have lately received an abusive letter from Mr. J. Latham a Unitarian preacher, breathing out threatening and slaughter against me, for speaking against unitarianism. — But I hope God may ever keep me, both from his doctrine and his spirit. — I have also received a letter from Dr Newman, with £3. — from the Parliamentary grant, which is a kind of ballance against the other, so I have some sweets mingled with my bitters, and must look at it as neighbours fare. — I hope Godwilling, after the roaring of this lion, I may taste some of the honey, which may be lodged in its stinking carcas. — For God often brings great good, out of intended evil, tho no thanks to the evil, nor to the evil doer thinker or doer. —

1827- Jun. 15th - The Lord has brought us to the beginning of ano
ther year, and enabled us again to erect our Ebenezer, "hitherto
hath He helped us" - Goodness and mercy have followed us through
the past, and certainly will thro the present. - But what is to
befall us during this year upon which we have entered, time can on
ly prove. - "Bonds and afflictions, more or less will abide us no doubt
where ever we are, as it is part of the legacy left us by our Lord. -
We had a largish portion of them last year, many more than I
have noted down, for I have thought best to pass by, and bury many
of them in oblivion to rise no more. - Our family trials have been
great, particularly that of our son, but we have some reason to hope,
that a merciful change has taken place in him, and that he is turned
from a rebel to a friend. - If it should prove so in reality, it will
be one of the greatest blessings, that God hath bestowed upon us. -
So that altho the past year was a year of considerable trials, yet
it was sweetly mingled with mercies, and this which has taken place
near its close, viz - the change in our son, is none of the smallest.
He has joined the people calling themselves Wesleyan methodists, but that mat
ters little to me, if he is but joined to Christ. - Some trials and
disorders also have begun to take place in our church, and I fear will
still be more. The tide seldom flows up rapidly, but it ebbs again
so it is in the church of christ, where we see a rapid increase, we
may begin to look for trials therewith. I think sometimes I see a
storm rising at a distance, that will toss us about, and make us
keep our sails, and cry to the pilot for help and direction; with a
"Lord save, or we perish." - I dont so much fear the storm, as I do
myself in the storm, least I should not have my sea legs on, (as the
sea term is), to be able to walk steadily, and act manfully, while the
storm lasts, with that fortitude and composure which becomes my
place. My pilot will certainly set at the helm, but I fear I
shall not be able to keep my eye upon Him at all times. -

April 25th. Health and strength are great blessings, when they are devoted to God's service and glory. Once I had a goodly measure of them, but I sadly abused them, and God saw fit to deprive me of them in measure, and to teach me the worth of them, by knowing the want of them.— I sometimes think it a great mercy that I am not deprived of my eyes and the use of my limbs, when I think how often I have wickedly used and blasphemed them, in the service of sin and Satan.— For the last month, I have been very unwell, but I have got thro with my ministerial duties, tho with much weakness and dippendty through mercy, I feel much better again, so that I can go into the villages and preach to the poor people, which I hope I feel great delight in.— My mind also has felt better of late, tho I have nothing to boast of, and God is daily supplying our wants with needful things, which the things in our church and congregation, I think wear a more pleasing aspect than in months past, and the storm which I foresaw, I hope will go over, without much damage to the ship or her lading.— "Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take,
The clouds ye so much dread,
Are big with mercy and shall break
With blessings on your head!"—

We are thinking of journeying into Essex again, to see that part of our family there if God permit.— But are ready to say, "If thou go not with us, carry us not up hence".—

May 30th.— We are just returned from our journey, and the Lord has been favourable to us.— We found our children in health, but have had work to provide for themselves, as the silk trade is now going bad, and the people so very numerous, that many are wanting bread.— Our health, and the affairs of our church, are a little revived again but I don't wish to have my expectations raised too high on any ground.— Our association is drawing on, but we shall not have such good news to carry as in former years, but a mercy it is no worse.— O that the Lord may grant us a double portion of his Spirit in the year to come.—

July 13th. Our association is once more gone by, with and things pretty comfortable, except some disputes and clashing about the doctrine called Fullerism, which some of the churches have begun to imbrace, and it seems likely to make disputes, if not a division of the association.— "This is not our rest, it is polluted".— Our son is returned from Sea, and has made a pretty good voyage, but I fear his religion don't lie very deep I wish I might be mistaken.— Our place of worship continues to be well attended, and I hope good is doing.— I exchanged with the Grundisburgh minister last sabbath, and next, I expect Godwilling to preach at Aldringham.— They are in a sad unsettled state there, ~~and God knows when they will be otherwise.~~— May God preserve us from broils and contentions, and keep us in true peace, and let our minds be stayed on Him.— — — A worthy Clergyman procured me £5- from Mr. Hodsons's will which I took as a great kindness from such a quarter, and can but view my heavenly father's hand in it, as in all things.—

Nov 12th. I have not written for months past, perhaps it is because my pathway has been somewhat smoother, but my sea does not continue so, many leagues together.— For several days and nights, I have been tossed up and down again, and not comported.— yesterday I went to chapel again, without a single text to preach from, and so continued each time, till after I got into the pulpit.— I open'd in the morning upon the 2. Chron, IX. chap, and read it, afterward attempted to preach from the 6th verse.— In the afternoon I read the XL. of Isaiah, afterwards preached from the 3rd verse.— In the evening at Oxford, from Phil, 1 & 10th.— and found the best time at last. No one can tell their trials, but those who have been exercised in some measure by them,— I am often tempted to give up the ministry, and sometimes to give up all for lost.— "But the love of Christ, constraineth me" not to give all up at the present.—

Jan 1. 1828 - New years day - O my soul, hast thou nothing to praise God for at this season? - Another year is rolled away and what hath God done for me and mine? - His mercies have been "new every morning, and great has been his faithfulness" -

"Minutes came swift, but mercies were,
More swift and free than they." -

But I have been too ungrateful to Him all the year round, I may speak it with shame - When I look at the many failings in my daily conduct, the times and often that I have mistrusted his goodness, and been almost filled with unbelief, and murmering at His dispensations, I ought to hide my head, "and let shame and confusion of face cover me" - It is true, I have gone thro many dark seasons, and much horror of mind, both in the pulpit and out, but out of them all the Lord hath delivered me. - I hope I have had some sweet seasons of enjoyment, some refreshing seasons from the presence of the Lord both in private and in public, so that my bitters have been mingled with sweets, my darkness followed by light, and my weaknesses followed by the strength of the Lord being made perfect therein" - Thus my life proves to be a checkquered one, composed of more changes than there has been in the Moon, yet my God, and his counsels change not, "He is of one mind, and Who can turn him", His counsels shall stand, and He will do all His pleasure" - ~~He~~ God may prepare us for all events which may take place in the present year and assist us to "glorify Him in our bodies and spirits which are His" - Nearly twenty seven years have vanished away since I began to make a profession of religion, and lo, they ~~are~~ are gone like a tale that is told" - Many who set out about that time are gone, some into the world again, and some to their final rest and others with me, are "bearing the burden and heat of the day" and waiting for their final call, "Come up hither" -

June 11th - Our association is once more gone by, and things as usual, or rather more uncomfortable. - The subject of duty faith faith seems spreading, which causes a deal of demur amongst us. - A deal of affliction has fallen to the lot of the churches in the past year, and not so much prosperity as in some past years nor perhaps, quite so much peace among themselves. - I am led to see, and feel somewhat the carnal at home, and meet with some things painful to the mind, and very trying. - Sometimes wish I could give up my post, and let the people get some one else, but dare not go against the will of God, least I should prove a Jonah again, which I dread. - I have shared in the afflictions of the past year, and am still sharing in them, My wife has been afflicted with an inflamation in her legs very bad, for these last two months, besides other afflictions in our family. -

"The Lord is a sovreign, and has a right to do as He pleases with his own"; and may we ever be submissive to his righteous will in all things

Sept 13th - I have been called to meet Mr Cowell at Oxford, to consult about having preaching there, regular on Lords days for twelve months, which I should be glad to accomplish, (the association have voted ten pounds for that purpose) and one of our deacons has engaged to go. - Many times have I felt my heart and desires go out, requesting the Lord to raise a cause in that place," and who can tell. -

My Wifes legs, and her health are much better thro mercy and hope she will be soon quite recovered again. - The Lord is good Our son I fear is giving up all religion, after joining the methodist and preaching among them for a season, it seems like the seed which fell upon stoney ground, "which it endured but for a while, and in time of temptation fell away". - "O. What a mercy to have the heart well established with grace, and firmly built upon Christ, as the rock of ages," that the gates of Hell, may not prevail against us," nor the floods of temptations, carry us away". -

Feb. 6th - 1829 -- Several things in the months of February, have been remarkable to me. - On this day, in the year 1773 I was born - Early in this month, in the year 1786, I set out to see the preacher - time. - Early in this month, in the year 1801, I was called by grace and early in this month, in the year 1806, I was called to preach to the Baptist church at Tunstall - I was 28 years of age, when the Lord called me by his grace, and I am this day 56 years old, so my time has been divided and is gone by, to return to me no more. -

"Much of my time is run to waste,
And I perhaps am near my home.
O Lord forgive my follies past
And give me strength for days to come"

How little have I done for Him, and for his cause, who hath done such great things for me. - I have not been so faithful and diligent a servant these 28 years to christ, as I was the former 28 to my old master Satan. - I have somtimes thought over the very many slips and failings which I have been the unhappy subject of, during my pilgrimage, and they appear innumerable and great. - They have given me many a heartfelt Wound, and cost me many a heartfelt groan, and drawn from me many a heartfelt sigh, and caused me to shed many a briney tear of repentance, for "my foolishness my foolishness". - But Why should I always make my moan, & indulge in silent sadness? - A good Bass, is a great help in music, but all Bass would make it rather melancholy. - But when I get upon that string, and touch that note, I am prone to hang there too longe. - Did not Christ groan for sin, but not his own? Did he not Weep for sin, but not his own; and did not the agonies he felt for sin, force the very blood thro the pores of his skin; and make him cry, "if it be possible, let this cup depart from me". - "Then O my soul, what means this sadness,
Wherefore art thou thus cast down
Let thy grief be turned to gladness) Bid thy restless fears begone

March 5th — How uncertain are all things here below, and who can tell what a day may bring forth! — Last saturday, Feb. 28th in the afternoon we were suddenly alarmed by the cry "a man is in the road, almost killed by a waggon!" — We ran to see the melencholly sigh, and found it to be, one of the members of our church, who had fallen, and both wheels had gone over his body. — As soon as I saw him, I perceived he had met with his deadly wound, and so it proved, for he lived four days and then expired. — He had his reason till the last, and spoke some sweet things about his hope of a future state, which gave us great satisfaction What a solemn affecting unexpected circumstance to us all!! — He has left a widow pregnant, and six children, beside many acquaintance, and a christian church, to mourn his loss, but we hope it is his eternal gain. — I have been in the house of mourning for some days past, but in some cases have found it better than the house of feasting to me. — I preached his funeral sermon by his own request, from those words. "When they shall cry peace, to. sudden destruction" &c — We had a crouded congregation and many seemed much affected. O that it may prove the savor of life unto life to many who heard

April 22nd — My mind has been much oppressed, through what I have seen and heard in the church, and I have revealed my mind to them in a friendly way, and I hope it has had some good effect. — I should be thankful to see them stirred up to their duty more in every respect, and to see the work of God going on more briskly among us. God is greatly favouring me in providence. — yesterday, as I was journeying to Woodbridge, I met a letter from Madam Bevin, with £5 - inclosed. — My wife is mercifully recovered from her lame ness, after four months suffering, and I have got the Doctors Bill amounting to £4.10s. — What a kind providence, that this £5 - came just in time to settle that!! — "Thus in the mount of the Lord it shall be seen." That the Lord Jehovah Jirah still. —

July 1. — I had some comfortable opportunities last sabbath all thro the services of the day, and felt some enlargement of heart, both in prayer and in preaching, thanks be to God for it. — Our church meeting in the morning was pleasant, when two persons related their experience, and were accepted for baptism, and others were proposed as candidates. — Our congregation is good, and things look to wear a more pleasing aspect, than in months past, but all things here are precarious and fluctuating. — What a mercy to be looking to a better country than this, and to have "an house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens". — Our family affairs also, look better than they sometimes do, but I dare not have my expectations raised, upon that ground, or upon any other now, my gourds have been so often Whithered, that I dare not sit down under another, to expect its continuance, least there should be a Worm at the root, and I not perceive it. — "But my God remains the same, and will do forever and ever, he will be my guide even unto death." — I want enlargement of heart in prayer, and in all that I perform. — I want a stronger mind and memory, and a deeper penetration and larger views of divine truth in all its branches and bearings, and I want more love to God, and devotedness to his service, and resignation to his will at all times, and on all occasions. — But alas! how far do I fall short, in every thing which I attend to ~~in general~~, and how little of that lesson have I learnt in twenty eight years, which the apostle seemed so familiar with when he said, "I have learned in whatsoever state I am ~~in~~, therewith to be content". — O. Lord, make me what thy pure eyes would have me to be, and make me much more useful in thy vineyard while here, and then receive me to thy rest which thou hast prepared for them that love thee". — I have no wish to live here, but to glorify God, and to be beneficial to my fellow sinners, in bringing them to Christ Jesus —

Oct. 21st — Our health and circumstances have continued for some months quite as well, or rather better than usual thro mercy, and we have been, and still are, constrained to view the Lords goodness to us and ours. — My sabbaths have been rather brighter, and so that I have enjoyed more liberty in the public services of the sanctuary, and several have been Baptized and added to our church. — Mysterious have been the ways in the which the Lord hath led us for years that are past, and yet has provided for us, in every place where we have been called to pitch our tents. —

"Even down to old age, I hope we shall prove,
His sovereign, eternal, unchangable love." —

I generaly look forward to this month, with some degree of fear. My house rent, and expenses at michaelmas are rather heavy, and to be much in debt, gives me pain. — But such a favour I have received from the Home Mission in London, as of course I never expected. — I had not having received any thing from them, for my village labours of two years past & therefore of course I had given up expecting any thing more. But after I had thus given up expecting, I received a letter with £10 - inclosed, & a few friendly lines to say, "that it was not thro any disrespect, that they had not thought of me before, but solely for the want of funds". — This was a great assistance to me, and enabled me to be, what we call, a clear man in the world once more, and £6. to go on with, and a heart rejoicing and saying, "What hath God wrought!" — I never heard from that society after. — Our youngest daughter, who has been afflicted with the scrofula, is mercifully recovered, and is got into a situation, which I hope will be a comfortable one. —

"Thus far my God has led us on,
And made his truth and mercy known,
(My hopes and fears alternate rise,
And comforts mingle with my sighs)" —

Jun the 27 1830 — The Lord is still very kind and good to us and ours, in giving us food to eat, and raiment to put on, and as our days and years roll away, He is shewing himself gracious, merciful, and full of long suffering and tender compassion to such unworthy, undeserving creatures as we are. — The part of our family that are nearest to us, are pretty well, but those in Essex we hear, are suffering from afflictions of body, and slackness of work in the silk trade &c. Our son we hope goes on rather better for the present, and our congregation is again upon the increase, since the small pox is abated, which was the means of thinning it for a considerable time, with the severity of the weather which we have had for the last quarter, and the abundance of snow. — But perhaps it has been too much winter within, as well as without, and we have reason to cry out under the symtoms of the lukewarm plague, for the Lord to touch us with a live coal from off the alter, to warm our cold hearts and thaw our frozen affections, and make us more alive to God, and dead to the things of this world. — —

May 13th — I have not written any thing down, for the last three months and now have to touch the melancholly string again, to a considerable degree indeed. — Our poor son, who turned us much to sorrow in his life, is suddenly taken away by death. — He was with us and well on the 5th inst. and died on the 7th before noon. — How uncertain are all things here below, and how unexpected by death was entered into our habitation and what needs be to stand in readiness, least coming suddenly he finds us sleeping. — This is a grievous blow, but it was the Lord who struck it, and we must yield to it, for "He is of one mind, and who can turn him, and whatsoever He pleaseth, that He has a right to do." We could have willingly parted with him, could we have been satisfied that all was right for eternity, but we must leave all with Him, who is too wise to err, and too good to be unkind." We are left to cry, "O our son our son" — We are about to journey into Essex once more, and may the Lord give us journeying mercies, and His presence with us —

June 23rd – We have been into Essex and are safely returned again and goodness and mercy followed us all the way ~~thus far~~, and made our journey I hope pretty comfortable and profitable. Our family there, are in health thro mercy, but tried in circumstances, on account of the oppression in the silk Works. – Hard work for poor ministers, to see their own children in straits yet cannot help them out. – But such is the case perhaps with many, and so it must be now, for so it seemeth good in His sight." – Our association is also gone by ~~once more~~, but far from comfortable. – We are divided into two, and cannot walk together any longer, because we are not agreed." – They divided upon Fullerism ~~as I expected~~, and I am uncomfortably situated, for my mind is with the new association, and I expect our church will continue with the old, – but I must leave it for the present. – Our congregation keeps up well, and some good is going on, so that I hope God is still among us for good –

July 28th – I am a little recovered this day, from a painful affliction, which has confined me to my chamber, for seventeen long nights and days. – My mind has been very comfortable, and God has been evidently with me, and christ has been very precious, and so that it has "been good for me to be afflicted." – I often longed to depart, and to be with christ," but it seems I must come back into life again a little longer, for what end and purpose, best known to God, and if it must be so now, I hope it will be for His great honour and glory and the benefit of immortal souls. – In this affliction, I have had a large abcess gathered under my left arm, which was very painful and discharged very much, and has left a great weakness under my left breast, which I feel daily, and shall do more or less, I have no doubt, unto my dying day. – Well, "it must be so now, for so it seemeth good" –

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Aug 16th — Thro mercy I am greatly recovered from my affli-
tion, so as to be enabled to fill my place again, for the last two
sabbaths, but with much weakness and infirmity, especialy u-
der my left breast, from the discharge of the abcess. — Yet I
feel a prospect of recovering strength again, before I go, where I
shall not return". — O. that the Lord may make me useful, for th
good of others, for that is what I chiefly want and wish to live for. —
He has been very kind, both in providence and in grace, so of all
the good things promised, not one has yet failed". — My friends have
visited, and administred to my needs, and my God has visited, and gra-
ted me rich supplies of consolation and grace, so that I have lacked no
thing in reality. — What a mercy if I can say with Joseph, "God hath
made me fruitful in the land of my affliction". I know I have not m
myself, nor has any man made me nor has the affliction made me
but if I am, or should prove more fruitful, it is God who has done it. —
One thing in these 17 days confinement I remember with pleasure. —
One day, some person stopped seemingly just under my window,
and began to sing "Home Sweet Home", or the Hymn with that title. I asked
my attendants to entreat the person to sing it all, and make him
some remuneration. — He did so, and I hope I did feel a foretaste of
my sweet home above, and I seldom ever heard that Hymn sung, or
played upon the chimes, or any instrument, but my heart leaped
with
Joy, and it appeared the gate of Heaven to me". — After some weeks
had rolled away, and my health was considerably recovered, I felt
stronger and better that I had done for months before I was afflicted,
for many time in the pulpit and out, few ever thought what I labored
under, but God I hope has made it among the "all things which work
together for good". — I also feel more liberty and enlargement in the ex
ercises of God than before, and hope the Lord will make me more use
ful, to feed his flock, which he has purchased with his own blood". —
"then I shall be fruitful, in the land of mine affliction". —

Jan 31st 1831 We are brought, through many dangers and difficulties, known and unknown to us, accompanied with many mercies and kind favours from God, to see the beginning of another year. Thus the poet sung. "Our years roll round and steal away,

the breath that first they gave
What ere we do, what ere we say,
We are hastening to the grave."

We have been mercifully helped through the past, beyond our expectation, and God has been better to us than our fears often foreboded. May He safely protect us thro this also if spared, and keep us from evil that it may not grieve us", and prepare us to meet with anything and every thing, which may be appointed for us, whether in life or in death. — These last ~~eight~~ ten years, we have been living three miles from our chapel, but hope, God permitting, this month, to remove within a few minutes walk of it, which ~~I hope~~ will make it easier for us in our declining years. — Our journey all thro life has been mysterious and so it still continues ~~still~~, but ? hope it will be all right at last. Now, what shall we look for in the year we have now entered upon? — shall we set down at ease and say, our lot is cast in pleasant places and we have a goodly heritage". — We are got near to our place of worship, which we have longed for; for years past, and ~~got~~ we among our friends and acquaintances, and all will be smooth and easy, and we shall die in our nest? — No, let us rather expect tribulations in this world, and then we shall not be so liable to be disappointed, of our expectation. —

Feb 7th Yesterday I passed by another milestone on my short journey thro life. 58, years have gone by, since I first breathed in this polluted air, 30. of which I have spent under a profession of religion. — But O. What an unprofitable servant have I been, to Him who bled and died for me on Calvaries' Cross, and how little fruit have I brought forth to His honour and glory. — There is nothing but shame and confusion of face belong to me, but all honour, praise and glory, are His just and righteous due forevermore. — I Baptized 3 persons yesterday, may they prove plants of the right hand planting. —

June 2. Nearly four months have hastened away, since I attempted to write, not because I have not had many favours from the Lords kind hand of providence, for they have been new every morning, but perhaps I have been unmindful, and apt to neglect or overlook — It is not possible that I have lived and kept on all these week, without many **rich** favours for both body and soul, for it is by Him I live and move and have a being". My health, and that of my partner in life, is quite as well, or better than usual, and we found our journey in Essex and Herts as well, and in as favourable circumstances, as we could expect, and all these are of the Lords goodness and mercy. Our association is at hand again, but God only knows who is to live to attend. The churches are evidently in an unsettled state, as well as the national affairs, but the Lord reigneth, and tho things seem fluctuating here, "His counsels shall stand, and He will do all His pleasure". — Our congregation keeps up their attendance, but things are not in the church [as] one could wish, ~~and God knows when they will be~~ — I suppose we shall never have all things exactly right according to our opinion here, and yet they all move on to answer some wise end and purpose which we can not foresee nor controul. "He worketh all things, after the counsel of his own will". —

Aug 24th — I have been afflicted this last fortnight, and kept from the pulpit, but am partially recovered thro mercy. Last Lord's day I got through twice, with a little help. In the afternoon I preached a funeral sermon for a female member, whom I baptized 22 years ago, when she was about 18 years of age. — She has walked worthy of her vocation and no doubt is gone "to that rest prepared for the people of God". —

My health remains very precarious, and my constitution a wreck — So sensibly do I feel my outer man decay and grow weaker, and, [as] I could as sensibly feel the inner man grow stronger, and renewed day by day. — I can truly say, I die daily to every thing here, "[as] my soul is even like a weaned child", from all created good, but I want to feel more of a growing up into christ, and a heart sanctified to Him and to His service, and given up without reserve to his glory. —

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Jan 2. 1832. "Time, that an empty vapour 'tis!" 365 times, has our earthly planet rolled round upon its own axis, and once more performed its annual motion round the great orb of light, which motions have given us our heat and cold, summer and winter, day and night, with all our suitable seasons for seed time and harvest, labour and rest, with all other necessary comforts for our being and well being in this life. These things call for gratitude of heart and praise to our great creator, who "spoke them into motion first," and has continued them so, till the present moment.— But when I contemplate upon that solemn subject of death, and enquire, how many millions of immortal souls must have launched into eternity, since this day twelve months!" and am I spared, as a monument of rich goodness, long sufferings, and grace and is he saying, of the cumber ground, "let it alone this year also," and see what it will bring forth?— Wonderous goodness!!! Where shall we find any such, but in God!— Bonds and afflictions have accompanied us thro the past, the future chiefly to us unknown.— I and my wife and one daughter have been very ill, but thro mercy, not all at the same time so we could wait one upon another, and we are pretty well recovered from our afflictions now.— My mind has been variously exercised since I wrote last, O how changable!— Some times I have hoped that I have felt the comfortable assurance of my interest in Christ, but at other times I have felt so hardened and impatient under my trials and so different to what the apostle describes when he says, "afflictions work patience, and patience experience, and experience hope &c— yesterday, tho I spoke of the happiness of religion, the joys of heaven, and the preciousness of Christ to others, and while they sung my favourite hymn, sweet home, I almost doubted the reality of all these things, and whether there was such a place as heaven at all!!!— O. that dreadful sin of unbelief, how it hardens and unhinges the mind, and strives to bring it into captivity to the law of sin, which is in our members!— "Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" "I thank God, thro Jesus Christ my Lord!"—

Feb 6th I am arrived at another mile stone safe, of course am so much nearer my eternal home, tho tired and fatigued in the way — I cannot say with Joshua, chap xiv v 11, tho not so old by 26 years, as yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day when the Lord called me &c — No, that I cannot for from my case, for my bodily strength is perfect weakness, and I feel it so much, that I scarcely know how to get thro with the services of the Sabbath days — Thirty one years have rolled away, since I first tasted the Lord was gracious "and having obtained help of god, I continue untill this day" — Oh the various shifting scenes, of lifes uncertain good or ill — Much I have been brought thro, and how abundant have been the goodness and mercies of God, vouched safe to me and mine, If I attempt to count them over, they are too numerous for me! — I hope I feel as much attached to the doctrines of the gospel as I ever did, and hope Christ is as precious a saviour as ever, and I rejoice as much in his finished salvation, and feel as much need of it, as I ever did, since I knew its worth — I want his power to redeem, his blood to atone, his righteousness to justify, the holy spirit to quicken and sanctify, and his grace to renew my strength day by day, as I pass the time of my sojourning here in fear — I see and feel as much need of holiness of life, and a closer walk with God, of activity in his cause, in attending to every means of grace of all plainess and simplicity in preaching, and of watching unto prayer, as ever I did since I knew the Lord for myself — Thus in myself I remain a poor sinner still, and all I have and all I am and must be as a christian, must freely flow to me, thro Christs meritorious sufferings, work and intercession for me, and not for my own works and worthiness —

April 26th — What a changing world is this! — But we have to do with one who changeth not, "his counsels shall stand" — What changes take place in families This week our fourth daughter is married and gone from us. — How they are divided and scattered within a few years! — The eldest go miles from us, the next 50, the third 35, and now the 4th gone 30; in an opposite direction, and the youngest near to us, still single — How different to what it was, when we fed them all at one table, and put them to bed all under one roof! — But they are fledged and flown from our nest, and may God protect them —

Still, tho they are gone from under the parental roof, where we fed them, and clothed them and warmed them in the best way we could, yet they are not gone from parental thought, feeling and affection, and tho when we look around us, where they once were, and cannot see or hear them, nor, yet they still dwell in the heart and thoughts of those who gave them birth, and dandled them when they could not take care of themselves. — But we were made to part, and on such occasions we may truly sing & say. "When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain — But we shall still be joined in heart, & hope to meet again!" —

(Dec 5)

Aug 2nd. — Thro mercy my health feels better this week. I have been so very unwell, I scarcely knew how to get about, and often think I am going off the stage of action, and that my work is nearly done in this country, but it will never be done in the better country. I was carried thro the services last subbeth, beyond my expectation, and have been recovering a little ever since, but my constitution is so far gone, and my sufferings are often more than I can describe, and sometimes more than I know how to bear up under; which make "me desire to depart, and to be with Christ, which is far better" But I know the Lord is sufficient, and I hope he will give me strength and patience to wait his will, ~~and to suffer his pleasure~~, as he will not lay on me, more than he will give me strength to bear, and make out a way for my escape" — We have heard from the different parts of our family, and some are pretty well, whilst ~~and~~ others are afflicted and tried in circumstances, so we have our mixture of pleasure and pain, good news, and bad, — Well, this is a thorny road, and so it must be but its end I hope will be peace — Last Week, when contemplating upon death, I cant describe my own feelings, but wonder how it will be with me at the last — I feel so beset with that sin of unbelief, that it hurts me beyond description — "O. could I but believe, then all would easy be". "Lord help thou my unbelief" — Our congregation keeps up pretty well, but there seem but little life or movement among us — O. for a shaking among the dry bones," it would make "me rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory!" —

Dec. 31st — The last day of the year 1832. — At the commencement of this year I wrote, and wondered whether God was saying respecting the Cumbergrounds, "let it alone this year also" — It is now made evident that it was his design, for what end and purpose, best known to himself — When looking forward for twelve months, it seemed much but now to look back, it seems but a vapour, a shadow, a bubble broke — To look forward there appeared much to be done, and much time to do it in, But alas! as the prophet said to the king, "While I was busy here and there, it is gone." "Time, what an empty vapour 'tis,

And days how swift they are,
Swift as an indian arrow flies,
Or like a shooting star."

Thro much mercy and goodness, we are still spared, to see the close of this year also, and God by his kind providence has provided for us, protected us, and delivered us from many dangers and evils, seen and unseen by us. "His goodness runs an endless round" — I would not write as though my expectations were elevated above measure, that be far from me — But our path way is somewhat smother, and the Lord is dealing very bountifully with us, and has delivered us, and brought us through many trials thus far, and we have sufficient for the day, and want only grateful hearts, to praise him for his goodness to us —

1833

Feb 7th — yesterday I passed the sixtieth milestone — Surely I shall soon get within sight of the goodly land, and leave this wilderness behind — For altho the Lord is dealing so bountifully with us, yet I feel persuaded "this is not our final rest, because it is polluted" — Perhaps I may say with some propriety, that we are more comfortably situated and provided for, than ever we were, taking every thing into the account, and I hope the Lord will accept the praise and glory, which are his due — There appears also, some little prospect of good being done in the church and congregation, which would give me great happiness to see and hear, for there would be "joy in heaven and joy on earth" to hear sinners tell what God had done for their souls, and to see them walking in his good ways, and finding them ways of pleasantness and paths of peace to their souls —

May 7th – Three months have passed over, since I wrote any thing of God's dealings with me, but tho I have neglected writing, God has not neglected me, in bestowing all needed good upon a worthless worm. "His mercies have been new every morning, and his faithfulness great." – I have had a better portion of health and strength during the winter season than usual, and my mind has been better and the affairs of our church more pleasant, and some have been added to us by baptism, and I hope more are enquiring the way to Zion, with their faces thitherward." – Our family also have enjoyed a better measure of health, and their circumstances are a little improved, so that altogether, "the Lord is dealing bountifully with us." – Last Friday Saterday and Lord's day, my mind was greatly distressed about some things, and I could not get any thing to preach from, until the last hour; but was helped through beyond my expectation. – How often has the Lord "made his strength, perfect in my weakness". to the praise and glory of his grace, and not unto me. I have thought of late, I should not end my days here, but time will prove, and patience will help to bear; what God is pleased to lay upon me I trust he Hope God will be my guide thro life, and in the hour of death also. –

June 12th – Another association is gone by, and things went off pretty comfortable, except a few unpleasant clashes about doctrines &c – I was not so comfortable in preaching, nor enjoyed so much liberty, as I did the year before, but every thing here, is subject to changes, no wonder my mind and frames and feelings should be so to. –
I am requested to preach again next year, and to write the circular letter God permitting, but Who can tell What a year may bring forth? It is very clear to every discerning eye, that the church of Christ is not in a state of perfection here below, nor will it ever be, while sin is in the World. – That accursed thing, "that in one fatal hour, spoild six days labour of a God," mars all the real happiness of associations of churches, and of individuals, both in their public intercourse with each other, and their private communion with their God. –
Each has to sing. "My grief and burden long have been
Because I could not cease from sin."
"It is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me" –

Oct. 7th - My mind has been very much tried for these last two months, so much so, that it has been with great difficulty, I have kept on preaching. - Last saturday, I was almost brought into a state of dispair, and thought I was getting very near to Bunyans man in the iron cage - How earnestly did I beg of the Lord, to take me away by death, rather than to put me in ther the sight of that cage, struck me with so much horror, that my "soul chosed strangling and death, rather than a life like that" - I was brought to doubt the truth of all the doctrines I had ever preached, and the truth of christianity altogether, and thought if I should be left to deny all that I had preached with so much warm and confidence, what a stumbling block I should prove, to the weak er christians. - This I believe was brought on me, by two of the members falling out by the way, just before my house, and abusing each other, with language very unbecoming christians, and the people of the world laughing and crying out, "I told you there was no differance" - Well, it did not appear like it by them at that time, but still I hope there is a differance, and that a wide one to Satan takes the advantage of such things, and tries to stagger the faith even of Gods elect, and it opens the mouth of the world to blaspheme the good ways of the Lord, and to cry, "ah ha, so we would have" How watchful ought christians to be, over that unruly member the tongue, "which sets on fire the whole course of nature, and is set on fire of Hell". - How we ought to consider, "that the cananites are still in the land", and are alway watching for our halting, and that the holy spirit is grieved with our disorderly conduct and conversation. - Well, all these things loudly testify, that man is an imperfect being, and this is not our resting place" - When I get home I shall sing and say,

"Now they may fight and rage and rave,
I shall perceive their noise no more,
Than we can hear a shaking leaf
While rattling thunders round us roar." -

Jan. 1. 1834. Another year is gone by to return to us no more, and I dont know how we can better begin this, than With a song of praise to God for his goodness towards us, during the past.

"Great God we sing that mighty hand,
By which supported still we stand,
The opening year thy mercy shews
Let mercy crown it, till it closes.—

With grateful hearts, the past we own,
The future all to us unknown,
We to thy guardian care commit,
And peaceful leave before thy feet."—

We have great cause for gratitude to God, for all his past and present favours to us and ours, for we have been richly supplied with the comforts of life thus far; and have enjoyed such a portion of health, that we have not had to call in, any medical aid, during the past year; Which is rather an unusual thing With us. I think I have paid our medical attendant, as much as £30— in a few years What are past, which seemed rather a heavy sum, out of our little income.— But God has been to us, "Jehovah Jirah."— We have had some things uncomfortable in the church, as of course will be at times, while in this imperfect state, and I often wish and pray, that God might remove me from hence, and open a door in some other place, where I might be useful if I have a few years longer to be here.— But I must leave it, and beg to be guided aright.— I sensibly feel, that all my powers of body and mind are completely unstrung, and in every sense of the word, my strength is perfect Weakness, and I often have to look back With mournful regret, upon my past folly, to think I abused my strength as I did, When the Lord supplied me with it.— But now it is gone, seemingly to return to me no more, and I am left to mourn its loss, When it is too late.— I hope others will be warned by my folly, and not let misguided zeal carry them too far, thinking if they run their heads into a fire, God is engaged to keep them from burning.— But it is not so.—

Feb.6th It is pleasant traveling upon the high road, where you can see the mile stones as you pass by them, it seems to refresh the weary traveler, when he thinks how his journey is shortening, and he is so much nearer to his beloved home.—Thus would I, forget the troubles of the way, and reach at Zions hill".—61 years of my poor sinful life is wasted away, and 33, of it, under a profession of religion.——

"What have I done, for him that died,
To save my wretched soul?"——

I sometimes look back, with shame, when I remember my past conduct and conversation, with the views and motives, which have induced me and prompted me on, and I see so much pride and vanity attached to almost every thing, "that I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes".— If I had now to depend for my salvation, upon what I have said and done, or ever can or shall do in future, as conditions of my acceptance with God, I must forever sink into the depest and blackest despair, and cry, "Wo is me for I am undone".— But there is one who hath done all this for me, and for all who are brought to believe in, and rely upon his blood and righteousness, for he "finished transgression, made an end of sin", and ever lives to make intercession for such transgressors as I.— This is all my salvation and all my hope in life, and be I hope in death

May 26th Last week we returned from our journey, thro Essex and into Hertfordshire, to visit our family once more, and journeyed mercies and much christian friendship we have enjoyed by the way.— I had a very sharp attact of the bowell complaint while at Chesthunt, and thought I never should have returned home again alive.— But I am so far restored, as to be enabled to preach once yesterday, and I feel my strength recruiting.— I was pretty comfortable in my affliction, and the fears of death were removed and friends were very kind to me, and paid me great attention, and one gentleman paid the doctors bill for me, of £1.2.6— We found our family in health and circumstances, as well as could be expected, for which I desire to feel thankful to the God of all our mercies

Our association is coming on, and I am expected to preach, and to write the circular letter[+], & I hope the Lord will strengthen me again at that time, as I have often found that promise verified, "as thy days thy strength shall be". — [+] (See Appendix)

Aug. 5th. — I hope I feel thankful, that my health is so far restored, as to enable me to attend to my duties in the ministry, & the congregation is pretty regular, but not so attentive as I could wish. — We have had a small addition of late, and hope it may be the forerunner of many more. — What a pleasure to see sinners returning to God, and renouncing their old habits and companions in sin. — Last evening I had a solemn, heart humbling season in private prayer, such as I have not often. — God seems to be "making me to possess the iniquities of my youth", and I had such a view of sin as brought me to the dust, yet I hope "it was good to be there". — It made me loathe myself, and extoll the riches of sovereign grace to the highest pitch which mortals can in this imperfect state —

Nov 11th. — I have been very unwell, owing to a bad cold I caught last week, going into a village to preach. — The weather was wet and cold, and I not clad accordingly, and I feel ~~the~~ mine infirmities so much more than I did, that the old tabernacle cannot bear up under the storms, so well as it once could. — Well, — when it be desolved, I hope I have one not made with hands, eternal in the heavens". — Last sabbath I was so unwell, that I did not expect to get through with the services, but was helped beyond my expectation, and I think, the people and myself enjoyed a very good day for our souls, this was the Lords doing — God was kind to us ~~in his providence~~ this last Michaelmas, in enabling us to pay every one, and to spare. — When he fed the five thousand, with five loaves and two fishes, there were some to spare, and the fragments were useful no doubt to the Disciples afterwards. — So when the poor Widow had paid her debts with the oil, she and hers were to live on the rest which remained" I cannot tell how it is, "but when we have had much, we have had nothing over, and when we had little, we have had no lack". —

Feb. 6th - 1835. How imperceptably time flies away, and how little regarded by too many. — How fast we move on, to that state, when and where it will be proclaimed, "that time shall be no longer". — I am this day arrived at the age of 62 years, and the latter part of my short time, has been labour and sorrow, and it seems to be past like a watch in the night". — My health seem better than usual, during the winter; ~~that~~ it has been in times that are past, and we have been, and still are, mercifully provided for; thro the dreary months which are past. — this is the Lords goodness, not ours, while many are punished with cold and hunger, we have sufficient for the days. — Things in our church, I think are looking a little better, and I hope the Lord will return to us once more, and cause us to take down our harps from the willows, and dance before the Ark again, to his praise and glory. — —

July 27th. Almost six months have imperceptably gone by since I wrote any thing of the Lords dealings with me and mine. How numerous have been the favours that we have received in that time, and I hope they are not all forgotten in unthankfulness but remembred at times with gratitude to the great giver of all good. — Our place of worship was thickly attended during the this winter, but alas! the means seem to have had but little good effect upon their minds and conduct in general. — But I know the work is of God, and he alone can apply the word with power, and make it the power of god unto salvation". — It still runs in my mind, I shall not end my days here, short as they may be, but I would leave it to Him, and wait and watch and pray to be directed in all things, even to the brink, and through the swellings of Jordan. — I received a letter this morning to say, that a person in this county deceased, has left 20 poor Baptist ministers £100 each, and I am one of the number. — this is the Lords doing, for I never knew man, nor ever heard the name of Thurston before.

Sept 10th - I feel a little better in health to day than usual this morg but I have suffered greatly for these last two months, I expect through the heat and dryness of the weather, which have been more so than usual this summer. - I have just been enabled to fill the pulpit twice on the sabbath, but with much dipficulty and pain. But I have so often found, that if I could but creep into the pulpit, the Lord has helped me thro the services, beyond what I expected," and his strength has been made perfect in weakness" Our congregation has kept up their attendance, but there seem but little going on & fear, in the conversion of souls to God. — Many things seem to indicate, that my work here is near at an end, and perhaps my life may be so to, and I feel a great desire to be prepared for whatever the Lord may have designed for me whether in life or in death. — I see some who make a profession of religion walking disorderly, which gives me pain, "for I have no greater joy, than to see my children walk in the truth as it is in Christ."

Dec. 4th Another year is hastening away, and we are still in the land of the living, upon praying ground, and pleading terms with God. Many mercies have been granted to us, many deliverances have been wrought for us, many temptations and troubles have beset us by the way, with many pains and light afflictions have been our lot during the past year, but out of them all, the Lord hath delivered us" — Many have been our sins of omission and commission and great our unworthiness to receive the smallest of his mercies, but grace and mercy have superabounded over them all. We want now if possible, to speak louder of his kindnesses to us then ever, and to adopt the words which I expect to preach from on Lords day, God permitting, Num XXIII & 23. "What hath God wrought!" — My health is so much better in the winter than in the summer, that I scarcely feel like the same person, but what are my sufferings at most, when compared with his, who suffered upon the cross for me, or when compared with the eternal weight of glory which shall follow, for all his chosen seed, in that better world —

Could I but always view the rod in the hand of a kind father
and that every stroke was in love, it would ease the smart, and
soothe the sorrow, and enable ~~me~~ me to say with sweet resignation,
"It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth him good." But for want
of this, we sometimes fret, we murmer, we repine at our lot, and
think the Lord deals hardly with us and by us.—

Cease all my angry passions then,
Let each rebelious sigh,
Be lost in unfeigned thankfulness,
And without murmer die."—

Feb. 6th 1836.— I suppose, 6th years ago to day, my mother gave birth
to an unworthy child, conceived in sin and shapen in iniquity, a
child of wrath, born under the curse of gods law, went astray from
the womb, speaking lies", grew up in almost all kinds of evil, and
followed the desires of its own wicked heart, to the utmost length it could
till it was 28 years of age. That poor wretched child was I.—
Cast out into the open field of this world, to the loathing of its person
and no eye to pity it, till gods time of love came, or his time to
make it manifest, when he was pleased to spread his mantle of
love over it, so that the child of deserved wrath, was made "an heir
of God, and joint heir with Christ". "Where sin had abounded,
grace did much more abound".— I am just recovering from a
severe attact of billious complaint, which threatened to shatter my poor Bark,
and wreck it altogether, but it appears I must once more put to
sea, and encounter a few more storms, before I get to the desired haven
I could not go out last Lords day, nor all this week till now, but
hope to preach once tomorrow, and administer the Lords Supper.—

"See the bush that burns with fire,
Unconsumed amidst the flame,
Turn aside, the sight to admire
That living wonder am".—

So the poet sung, and so may I sing, and so may all the ransomed of
the Lord sing, untill their song be closed in death, and then they
will sing, "unto Him that hath loved us, and washed us from our sins

April 23.– The Lord is still very kind and good to us in his providence.– My wife has been very ill, since I partialy recovered but thro mercy, she is greatly restored again.– My health continues very weak indeed, till I find hard work to keep our place of worship open twice on the sabbath.– We are thickly attended, but some of the church treat us very unkindly, but give no reasons for it, at present.– They have shortned my little salery again, and we have been under the Doctors hands for months past, but God is mindful of us.– I suppose if I serve them 20 years, they will change my little salery ten times, as Laban did Jacobs wages.– Yesterday I received the £100– from Mr Thurlow's bequest, and after deducting the duty and expenses, I got upwards of £88– This is an unspeakable interposition!– The Lord has often sent it me by ones, fives and tens, but thus is the greatest sum we ever had at one time, and I hope it will prove a blessing to us, in our declining days.– O for Wisdom and prudence, to devote it to his glory, and our general Good God permitting, we think of journeying to see our family once more, before we go Hence we shall not return, and hope he will give us Journeying mercies, and Christian friendship and his presence to go with us, and be our stay.– Tomorrow morning is our church meeting, which I rather dread, but I think I shall not attend, but leave them to consult things, as they think proper I should be thankful if the Lord would open my way to some thing else, for I feel convinced, things are going strange here.– But hope to be guided by Him, who is too Wise to err.––

June 15th.– I once more attempt to write a little of the Lord's goodness towards us, during the past two months untill now.– On the 11th of may, we left home, to visit our family once more. We spent the first week at Colchester, where I preached once on the sabbath at the Baptist chapel, and attended the Association there, on the Tuesday and Wednesday following.––

I was rejoiced to see and hear many of my old friends and acqua
intances there, and they requested me to preach to them on the
Wednesday morning before breakfast, which I complied with—
The next sabbath we spent at chesham, where I preached twice
at the Independant chapel, and enjoyed much christian friend
ship, during the week we staiyed there.— The next sabbath, on
our return, we spent at Braintree, where I was over persuaded
to preach twice at the Baptist chapel, and then to ride three miles
to preach in a barn in the evening.— Here I have to lament my
folly, in yielding to over persuasion.— I had not rode more than
a mile, when the poney fell, broke the chapt, threw me on the
hard ground, and hurt me very much.— I rose from the ground
with a conscience condemning my conduct, and got back to Brain
tree as well as I could, to tell my mournful complaint there.—
This in a measure spoilt my journey, for I left home very unwell
and with a determination to preach but very little if any; with a hope
the journey and relaxation might be beneficial to me, but now
I had thrown cold water upon the whole, and I came home worse than
I went away.— What are human resolutions, when off our watch
and guard; but like Samson's green withs, very easily broken
I hope I felt thankful to God, that I was hurt no more, and submitted Him
in his dealings, in permitting it to take place, to prevent my going
further,— On the Thursday following we arrived safe at our dear
home, after an absence of three weeks and two days, to speak of
the goodness of God to us and ours.— We found our family in
merciful health, and in better circumstances than might be
expected.— I hope it was good for us all, thus to see each other
in the flesh, for who can tell but it may be the last time.—

"Chained to his throne a volume lies,
With all the fates of men,
With every angels form and size,
Drawn by the eternal pen."

Watts' lyrics.—

Sept. 6th — We have been down to Lowestoft, to see the part of our family there, and found them well and comfortable — I preached in the Baptist chapel on the Lord's day, but religion is at a very low ebb there, and very small attendance — We have cause for thankfulness, to see how the Lord is blessing our family in providing for them, and hope three of them are become decided on the Lord's side — He has also provided for us in our declining years, beyond all our expectations, for which I desire to be abundantly thankful — My health is so very indifferent, that I often think I must give up the ministry, but I am helped on thus far — At the latter part of the week, and on sabbath mornings, I feel so weak and down cast, that I think it is no use my attempting to preach, but am helped through beyond my expectation — The cause here also, seems far from prosperous, and I seem to labor in vain, yet with a hope that it may revive again before I go hence, but I beg for resignation to the mind and will of God; as "all my times are in his hands," and best for them to be there —

Jan 2. 1837. We are entered upon another year, but what is in the womb of providence concerning us, we cannot tell. We can speak of Gods goodness to us and ours, all thro the past, and upon the whole we must confess it has been a merciful year to us all. — If spared through the present, and things should prove trying and afflictive, still we shall have cause for thankfulness, that they are no worse — Hope the same Lord who hath preserved and guided, fed and clothed, nursed and cherished us all our life long, the angel that redeemed us from all iniquity, and called us to his service, may vouch safe his blessings to us this year also, and then we shall sing, "not unto us, not unto us, but unto his name be all the praise and all the glory" —

"Now to the lord that makes us know,
The wonders of his dying love,
Be endless honours paid below,
And streams of nobler praise above" —

Feb 6th I have generaly made it a practice to write somthing on my birth day, but I have nothing perticular to note down at this time- However I can't help calling to mind at such seasons, things which are long gone by, but I have them still fresh on my mind- This day I call myself 64 years of age- 50 years ago this week, I first set out on a seafaring life, 36 years today, since I first felt the love of christ shed abroad in my heart, and 31 years yesterday since I was first called to preach at Tunstall, after Mr Reynolds left.— Thus my poor life has been divided, and O. What changing scenes have I passed through What goodness and mercy on Gods part, but murmurings, discontent, unthankfulness and unworthiness on mine.— Let shame and confusion of face cover me, but all honour and praise be unto God—

April 17th — My health and spirits are very weak, and have been very much tried for the last three months, so that I have been obliged to decline preaching for the last two Sabbaths.— Thro mercy I feel much better, but the people have been treating me very unkindly, which has tried my mind very much, but I hope the Lord will over rule it for good.— I do sincerely hope and earnestly pray, that he will remove me from this place, and open a door, where I might be a little useful, as a gospel preacher, or in any way he shall see fit.— My soul even longeth for such a deliverance, that I can scarcely pray for it, with resignation, to say "thy will be done" yet I know I ought.— I seem like a bird shut up, and longing for liberty, and my souls longing in its goings forth towards God, for the interpositions of providence, and often pray with Jeremiah Chap xxxvii. & 20. "send me not back to the house of Jonathan, least I die there".— O. that God may hear my prayer but this once, and set my feet at large, that I may praise him with my whole heart I believe I may say with the prophet, "the treacherous dealers, deal very treacherously," and those who I once took to be my chief friends are my chief enemies. "It is better to put our trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes".—

Nov. 30th. – We have lately received a letter from our daughter at Lowestoft, to say she was dangerously ill, and we went as soon as we could, and found it so. – I stayed three nights with her, and am returned, but left my wife with her, and she much better thro mercy. – I have now to spend my time chiefly alone, and yet not alone, but I hope the Lord is with me. – This day I have enjoyed his presence very sweet and precious, and a very melting season, while reading the 20th. chap. 1 Sam.l, respecting the mutual love subsisting between Jonathan and David, and hope I felt a great love subsisting between Christ and my soul. – Death dissolved the bands between the two former, but cannot between christ and his church, "for neither death nor life, nor any other creature, shall be able to seperate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus." – I am so weak, that I am not able to preach, or exert myself after any thing, and God knows whether ever I shall again, but I must leave it. – I rose this morning, with my mind full of darkness, heaviness and sadness, but the sun of righteousness has since arisen, I hope, with healing in his wings". – It has been so impressed upon my mind of late, and I cannot account for it, that I shall have some money given me, to pay off that old debt upon Tunstall chapel, but from whence it is to come, or how or when, I can give no account whatever. – nor why I feel it so, and am led out in prayer for it as I am, I cannot tell any one, but so it is, and I cannot help it. – I have given up my pastoral office at Tunstall, and we are again cast upon the hand of our covenant God, to do with us, as seemeth good in his sight, but thro mercy we are not without means of subsistance at the present. – I have been with them in all, just about 24 years, and have Baptized and received into the Church, 225 persons, and I do hope, the Lord has blessed my poor labours in my native country. – I feel no scruple, in adopting a part of the language of Jacob to Laban, Gen XXXI. 38, and following verses. – In all my losses, afflictions expences of doctors bills, postages of letters or what not, I never asked them for an extra shilling. I have borne the burden, by night and by day.

Jan. 1. 1838. - We are brought through another year, and to the commencement of the present. - The past has been made up with afflictions and trials of various kinds, sweetly intermingled with mercies and favours, from the bountiful hand of a covenant God and father, so that I may say, they have been all mercies, and no judgments. - We have received many kindnesses from friends and many soul refreshing seasons from the presence of the Lord, during the past year; but what changes are to take place in the present, are all known to the wise disposer of all events. - We have to do with one "who changeth not, nor alter the thing that is gone out of his mouth." I hope He will in his providence remove us from this place, for we are very uncomportable here, and fix us where we might be a little useful in his cause again. ——

That one thing still dwells upon my mind as fresh as ever, viz. the means to pay off that old debt upon the chapel, but I see no way at the present, nor can I account for its dwelling upon my mind as it does, and feeling such a spirit of prayer for it as I continually do, but I hope it is from God and the silver and gold are His — I believe it would be one of the happiest days I ever lived, to see that accomplished. O Lord, hasten it in its time. —

Feb 6th I wish to notice every milestone as I pass, because it brings me nearer to my journey's end, and my sweet home. - My health continues very weak, and I don't appear as if I should ever be fit for much more labour in the Lords vineyard. I have had many sweet seasons of communion with God, I don't know when I have had happier weeks, than since I left off preaching. - My sabbaths are my worst days, as I cannot comfortably hear the young man, that is preaching to them, and of course there is a shyness between those who have been the means of my leaving, so there cannot be the union subsisting between us that there has been, and I should be thankful, if the Lord would remove us Where we could be more comfortable. — But we have need of patience, that after we have done his will, we may inherit the promise. "Wait o my soul thy makers will,
Tumultuous passions, all be still." —

March 14th. We have been to spend a day and night with some kind friends, a clergyman and his, who are about to leave this neighbourhood, and perhaps it may be the last interview we may ever have upon earth.— We spent our time very comfortable, and had much spiritual conversation and prayer; and hope the Lord blest the opportunity to us all, and that we shall meet again in heaven.— That subject continues as powerful upon my mind as ever and I think more so, viz, the paying off that old debt upon the Chapel, and I have earnestly begged of the Lord to convince me of mine error if I be in one, and to keep me back from such presumptious sins, but it still continues, and if possible increases I think.— yet I see not the least crevice open, to let in any light upon the subject, or to shew where it is to come from, when or how.— The passages of scripture, which have been so sweet to me, and which I have felt liberty in reading of, and pleading in prayer, are the following.— 1 Sam.l. xx.v. 4. 1 Chron. IV. 10.— 1 Sam.l. 1. 10.— Ps.l. xxxvii 4. 5.c Hab. ii. 1. 2. 3.— John xiv. 13. 14.— with xvi. 23. 24.— Luke xi — 5. 6. 7. 8 &c. with chap. xviii. first 8 verses.— Mason's thoughts upon Ps.l. xxxix. 7, were very sweet and melting this morning, with many other things which have been sweet and profitable, beyond what I can express, and if I deceive not myself, nor am deceived by Satan or my own heart, I have enjoyed, the most nearness to God through Christ in prayer, and liberty in taking hold upon Him as a precious Saviour and advocate, I ever enjoyed, since I professed religion.— I have also found great comfort and boldness, and nearness to Christ in prayer, from Gen xxxii, 24. and following verses, and have been enabled to lay hold on Him by faith, and use the same language, "I will not, I cannot let thee go, except thou bless me indeed."— I hope I have felt some of those "strong cries and tears," which accompany contrition of heart, and sincere prayer to God, and have felt those drawings forth of soul, that I hope must be of God the Holy Ghost, "making intercession in the saints, according to the will of God".— Rom viii. 26. 27.— O Lord hasten it in its time

March 23. A friend from Stonham, has been over, to invite me to preach there next sabbath, but I so dread the journey of 20 miles, and the thoughts of any publick service, as I have not attempted any thing in publick, for the last 23 weeks, that the thought of it seems too much for me & I am in a strait between two, feeling a desire to go, but so incapable of publick exercise; but strength has so often been imparted equal to my day, that it encourages me to go forward. He told me, if I could not do any thing when there, I should find a home at his house, as long as I would stay, and he would send me back again, when I wished. — These are kind offers, "and who can tell." — The spirit of prayer for the forementioned object, still continues unabated and I hope my prayers and tears will not all be lost upon that subject, for "it was he who taught me thus to pray,

And he I trust will answer pray'r."

But it may be in such a way,

As may almost drive me to despair." —

I feel as though I could sacrafice almost every thing, even life itself, if the Lord would permit me to do that one thing, tho it were the last I should ever perform for His cause on earth.

July 12th. I have not written any thing of the Lord's dealings with us of a long time, but great and manifold have been his mercies towards us, since I wrote last. — I went to Stonham according to that invitation, and the first sabbath felt very weak, both in body and voice, but got thro, with a little help. I stayed with them eleven sabbaths, during which time, my strength & spirits so much increased, that I was not like the same man. I continue much better, but of course shall never be strong again, but ought to be abundantly thankful for what I do enjoy. — I have also been to supply at Wattisham, and Hadleigh, and experienced many journeying mercies, and much christian friendship. — But I must now turn over, and look at the dark side of the leaf again, though it may be painful. — For the last week or ten days, my mind and spirits have been in such a dark and painful state, that I cannot describe it to any one, only God can tell it, and I have revealed it to no other, nor care at present

I cannot now believe that I know any thing about religion aright
and ~~that~~ for all the sweet promises and seasons which I have enjoyed,
and the drawings out of soul in prayer which I have felt, are
all adelusion, and that ~~I~~ God has given me over to sin and Satan, as
a monument of his righteous justice and displeasure. — I have
resigned myself up to ~~Him~~ God, to that effect, to do with me, as shall
seem good in her sight. — Still I feel, that if I could pay off that
old debt upon the chapel, before I went hence, it would give me satis
faction, even if I had then to go to that bad place, where I deserve to go —
I feel also, the great need, of a free forgiving spirit, to freely forgive all
who have treated me wrong, but I cannot feel it as I could wish. —
I fear at times, I may be left to put an end to my own existance
as my poor old friend Hubbert did; he appeared a humble good
christian, but was left to commit that act. — O Lord, keep me,
from that, and every other rash step, that may dishonour thee. —
I have engaged to preach at Dairy lane Ipswich next Lords day,
but I suppose I shall have to preach that to others, which I cannot believe
for myself. — The Lord seems to have hedged up my way, and shut
out my prayers, and I need not wonder at it, they are so sinful
and polluted. — Perhaps it might be better for me, if I were a beast,
instead of a man, but God has made me an accountable creature.
From Ipswich, God permitting, we think of starting through Essex
once more, to see our family ~~once more~~ and hope for his kind protection
We want to meet with something, so we could remove from where
we are, as we are uncomfortable of course, as things are with us.

2 Sp. (L.) 140 p. Jan. 22nd 1848.

Aug. 18th. We are safely returned from our long Journey once
more, and many journeying mercies and much christian friend
ship have accompanied us all the day through. We found our
family generaly, in merciful health and circumstances,
and so we left them, ~~Our~~ thanks be to God for it. I preach
ed in six different places while out, and hope the Lord may
bless my feeble efforts for good to souls. A letter met me
at Colchester, requesting me to go and preach at Crawford, for
twelve months, and to reside there. They are a few Baptist, who
were members of different churches, and have been formed into
a church, and have preaching in a barn, fitted up for that purpose

So far as I, and others can judge, it appears to be my duty to go and make trial, so far as God enables me, but I fear my health will not admit of much labour, but if he should please to make use of me for some little good to others, I should feel thankful, if after all, "I myself should be a cast away". – My mind at times I hope, feels a little better, and unbelief seems a little to subside, but it is a hard struggle. – I have been called to preach in six different places, since I left home, but have found hard work to believe what I preached to others. – I still feel as strong a desire after removing that old debt as ever I did, and if the Lord would but put it in my power, I should not mind what I suffered, even unto death. – But I can neither see nor hear of any means whatever, but all things appear as dark as it is possible for them to be, yet I know, there is "nothing too hard for the Lord"; so I must leave it, and beg that he may direct our future movements, and provide for us, even down to old age. – I know, if my soul were sent to hell, His righteous law would approve it well, but I should seem to go even there, more satisfied, if I could but accomplish that object. There is no sinner there, greater than myself: I can challenge all them.

Sept 28th. – I have been preaching at Cransford, for the last five Sabbaths, and according to appearances, it seems our duty to go, and make trial for twelve months, if providence permit; but if it be not Gods pleasing will, I hope He will prevent it by some means. My mind feels a little better, and at times seems a little relieved from that dreadful sin of unbelief, but at other times, I am very much harrassed and perplexed with it. – Last evening, I hope I enjoyed sweet nearness to God in prayer, but this morning again, sin was preeminent, and I in as much darkness and distress as ever. – "Who shall shall deliver me, from the body of this death?" – That old subject dwells as fresh upon my mind as ever, and hope I may one day have the luxury of accomplishing it, but it seems like hoping against hope. I feel as tho I could freely stretch myself upon a tree, be nailed to it, and there crucified to accomplish it, but all will not do, I must live. It is generally the first thing in the morning, and the last at night.

We expect God willing to remove to Cranford, on the 11th of next month, but my expectations are not raised, respecting any thing there, so I shall not be greatly disappointed, if I should not succeed.. My way seems clear to go, and all other ways are shut up, though things look rather dark there, at least to me, but time and patience will prove.—
No text in scripture at this time, suits my case so well, as Prov. xxx.—
2. & 3 verses.—

Nov. 28th— I have neglected writing for months past, on account of having much to do, in our new situation; but God has not neglected us, for he has handed in rich supplies, so that we have stood and wondered at his goodness, and admired his hand.—
My health is so much better, that I sometimes wonder at myself— I get through on the sabbaths beyond expectation, and sometimes preach on the week evening, and our place is thickly attended and evidently wants a larger and better place.— How it is to be in that case, we cannot tell, but the people seem very anxious for it. It seems sometimes mysterious to me, that I should be at the beginning of one cause, I unstall; and have seen that raised up, and brought to maturity, and then should have to leave it, and begin another in my old days.— Something like the old man planting the apple tree, when one told him, he could not expect to eat fruit off that tree, he replied; but some one else may;" he was doing something for posterity.— Perhaps I may;" for one soweth and another reapeth, one laboureth, and another entereth into his labours;" and I may be the means in the hand of God of getting things ready for some better man.— If so, I hope God will have all the praise and glory forevermore, amen.—

Dec. 31st— Another year is nearly brought to a close, and God has mercifully preserved us, and provided for us all the way thro the same.— We have had, and still have, all things and abound, for he has handed in to our supply, beyond what we could ask or expect. One kind friend sent us a comb of wheat, another meat and different things, till we feel surprised at Gods goodness.

My health and strength continue beyond expectation, ~~but~~ and my mind feels a little relieved from the power of unbelief, and I have enjoyed the worship of God more than usual, but still feel myself a worthless being, unworthy of the smallest of His mercies, though he is bestowing so many upon me.— My desires and prayers to God, to accomplish that one object, remain as strong as ever, night and day, and I cannot give over hoping that it will one day be the case, that He will "arise and lend me them three loaves." for I feel as tho I could neither live nor die happy without accomplishing that object.—

Feb 6. 1839.— I have lived to reach the 66th milestone, and now can say with Jacob, tho but half his age; "Few and full of evil have the days of the years of my life been."— Surely mine have been full of evil, of almost every kind, perticular that evil of Sin, which is the procuring cause of all other evils.— Surely I have had to groan under that, from one year's end to another of late, till I have almost sunk under its ~~cursed~~ intolarable load and weight. That sin of sins, ~~unbelief~~, has so easily beset me, that I have been almost ~~beat~~ driven, to despair of mercy, and got into Bunyan's castle, along with the old giant and his wife diffidence— But my head is still above water, and christ has still a long and strong arm, to save when we are sinking, and constrained to cry, "Lord save, we perish".— God is still very kind in His providence to us, for which we have to wonder and be thankful, but I am almost like Haman, only I hope upon a better cause, all this availeth me but little, while I cannot accomplish that one thing which lies so near my heart. (Esther V. 13) Not that I desire to overlook, or think lightly of any of God's favours, "or sin that grace may abound, God forbid;" but to near does that one thing lye to me, that it is more than my necessary food, and I could willingly be deprived of, that or just to any inconveniencies I could bear; to accomplish that one object, before I die.— Lord I cannot let thee go; till that blessing thou bestow;

O; do not turn away thy face; Mines an urgent pressing case

March 25th. I know not how to begin, yet I ought to say somthing about the Lord's dealings with us, but I feel at a loss where and how to begin, when so much of his goodness appears before mine eyes.— If I were to attempt to number them, they are more in number than the hairs of my head for multitude, when I awake he is still with me. "Thou tellest my wanderings, put my tears into thy bottle, are they not written in thy book?"— Providential favours, are still flowing in from different quarters, and our place of worship is well attended, and some appearances of good doing; and my health and strength continue, beyond my expectation.— But I am still an unprofitable servant, and God may justly turn a deaf ear to my prayers, and frown on all I do, or attempt to do— I have begged earnestly to be convinced of my error, if I be in one, respecting praying for the means to pay off that old debt on the chapel, but the spirit of prayer still continues, and I think increasing that night and day, I cannot get rid of it.— Surely such a spirit can not come from Satan the father of lies, nor from nature, which is averse to prayer, but I hope from God the holy Ghost, who "maketh intercession according to his will."— It is more to me, than my meat and my drink, or my religious previleges, and continues than life itself.— It is now more than 16 months, since I first felt these strong desires and drawings forth of soul, with strong cries and tears before God, whether I have been at home or abroad, it has follow me, with but little intermission or abatement.— If I lay or walk or sit, that is my companion here.

April 19th.— I again attempt to take up my pen, but scarcely know how to write.— My nerves are completely unstrung, and my mind is in such a weak state, that I know not how to attend to any thing. But above all, that cruel sin of unbelief is so prevalent, that I know not how to live, and in fact, I feel neither fit to live nor to die.— I am now brought to fear, that all the spirit of prayer which I have felt, and the nearness to God thro christ Jesus, which I hope I have enjoyed, on so many places, and at so many different times, is all a delusion, and that I have been actuated by a wrong spirit, all the way through, and that God has permitted

me in justice, to be carried away by a spirit of error and infatuation
If so, He is perfectly just and holy, and must do all things right;
if He send me to hell, I will justify him there.— Full 18 months have
gone by, since I first felt that spirit of prayer, so powerfully, and whe-
ther I have been at home or abroad, it has continued almost unabated
and some of the sweetest seasons I have enjoyed, that it has seemed the
very gate of heaven to me, but I have never revealed it to a single
creature, and I feel thankful that I have not; only God and my own
soul, know these things.— But now He seems to have left me, and
given me up, to do and to say as I please, and He pays no regard to
me, "He shutteth out my prayers", but He is perfectly just in so doing.—
I groan under much heaviness of mind, and know not how to live,
much less to go on with the ministry, which I often think I was not
designed for, and apt to wish, I had never attempted it.— Next
Lords day, God permitting, I have to Baptize four persons in water,
and O. how I feel to dread it, no tongue can tell, my nerves are in
such a state.— Now the question is this with me; Whether it be right
in the sight of God, for me to continue praying for that object; or
whether it is right for me to contemn praying at all ~~—~~, for I am at a loss
to know, which would be most pleasing in the sight of a holy God.—
O. Lord decide this doubtful case for me.—

May 7th.— I think it is my duty, and I feel a desire to note
down some things which transpire by the way, but they must be chop-
ly at this time, upon the painful experience which I am laboring under.
It is true we are apt to forget, but I think I have had some of the
most trying seasons of mind, I ever was called to indure.— On
the 29th of April last, I went out with a brother minister, to attend
a ~~———~~ meeting of ministers.— We stopped at a friends house
to sleep, but alas! instead of sleeping, "I was tossing to and fro, un
till the dawning of the day".— My mind was so distressed, that I could
not think upon God without terror, and endeavoured to fix my
thoughts upon somthing else, and to draw them quite away from Him,
with whom I had held sweet communion, in times past through Christ—
Many things in the XXIII. chap of Job, and in the LXXXII Psl, were very
applicable to my case, but not all. "When I thought upon God I was troubled."

"The Holy just eternal three, ~~are~~ were terrors to my mind." I could see nothing but justice befor mine eyes, Without any mercy and could not see how mercy and truth had met together on my behalf." -- I thought I had provoked God so greatly to anger, by praying so often, to him, for the means to pay off that debt, that I had so incurred his displeasure, and committed the unpardonable sin, and that He had given me over to destruction. -- Still I could justify Him, if it were so, and I feel thankful that I was not left to charge him with folly once, to the best of my recollection But what was best to do I knew not, nor do I to the present moment I cannot pray, nor ~~I cannot~~ I give it up. -- I sometimes feel afraid to pray, yet ~~and~~ I am afraid to restrain prayer before God. -- I am truly in a strait betwixt two". -- If I knew I offended God more by my polluted prayers, than I should by omitting, I would surely give over, but if I knew that it was more his pleasing will, for me to continue, I would endeavour to keep on. -- "What I know not, teach thou me". -- "Who can understand his errors, cleans thou me, of my secret faults". --

July 20th. -- I hope, since I wrote last, I have found some relief of mind, and some little comfort in prayer, and in preaching the gospel to my fellow sinners, but a considerable portion of that unbelief prevails, but not to so powerful a degree, as it has done heretofore -- I have seen and felt much of my own vileness, blackness and depravity, till I have immagined myself standing in the midst of Hell, and challenging all around me, to point out a viler wretch than myself -- yet I have had a hope, that Christ died for me, and would save me at last, from that "lions den, and from the mountains of the Leopards". -- We have been from home, these last nine days, among our old friends at Aldringham and Aldboro, where we enjoyed much christian friendship, and many mercies, and God has made these visits reviving to the spirits, I hope a little. -- I preached in three different places, to good and attentive congregations, and hope we enjoyed the Lord among us for our good; and we are safely returned to our home again in peace, and in merciful circumstance

I still feel the spirit of prayer for that object, as powerful as ever, and I cannot give over praying for it, and this day enjoyed some gracious encouragement in so doing, and cannot give up that hope, tho according to appearances, it is against hope.— How things will be with us here, respecting our continuance, I know not.— It has been mentioned to me, but is left till the next church meeting, when I feel a hope, that it may be decided for us to leave, for I cannot feel at home here, particular with some of them called leaders.— I know the "lot is cast into the lap," and I ought to leave the whole disposal of it to the Lord; but sometimes I feel hard work, tho I pray for His will to be done, yet find not my will here; but hope he will direct my steps, and bow my will to His.——

Sept 21.— Two months have passed over, since I wrote last, and many mercies have been bestowed upon us.— I sometimes have felt very unwell, and at others, I have felt better, and so I have been carried through thus far.— sometimes my mind has been bowed down, and sometimes lifted up a little, but upon the whole, I hope it has been better, since I wrote last.— I still hope I have an interest in what Christ has done and suffered, and in what He is doing now; and after all the tossings and tempests which I have undergone, "I hope I know that my redeemer liveth;" and I have enjoyed some nearness to God thro Him.. thro tempest and tossing he'll bring me to land."— My unbelief is in some measure abated and communion with God restored, and His terrors don't make me afraid."— I have again felt nearness to him in prayer, and particular for that one object, which I still hope to obtain, tho I know not how, When, or where.— Nearly two years have expired, since I first felt such drawings out after that in prayer, and now cannot give it up. Joseph was two full years in prison, after he so earnestly solicited the Butlers interferance, to think on him; but altho he forgot him, his God did not.— so I hope, tho I have to tarry, the vision will speak in God's time and way.— We are certainly at the brook cherith, and are often fed by the ravens, for what numbers of favours do we receive, from the hand of those who know not God.. This is His doing—

No other door but this, opened for us, when we came here; and no other at present opens for us to go else where; so we must sit here, till God in his providence shall point us to some other situation; which may He grant, that it may not be very long, so I must leave it with Him.

Nov. 18th.- During the last fort-night, I have suffered considerably from lowness and depression of spirit, till I have been much bowed down and dejected in mind.- I have been called out for the last two sabbaths, to preach at Beccles and Halesworth, but and I form it too much for my poor tabernacle, to journey and preach and bear the fatigues of the same.- However, the Lord helped me through, beyond my expectation, and I have so often found that promise made good to me; "as thy day, thy strength shall be".- I was helped thro again yesterday, and I believe it was a pretty good day with the people, and I believe many of them wish me to continue, but this little cause, is under petticoat government so how things will terminate I know not; but I have agreed to continue through the winter, God permitting.- I have again to state, that the spirit of prayer still continues, for that one forementioned object, tho I can see no ways nor means to accomplish it, yet God can, for He saw the end, from the beginning and before.- I have begged very earnestly, to be convinced of my error, and felt my self open to conviction, but it still continues, as tho I could take no denial.- "I can no denial take, when I plead for Jesus sake".-

"O. that my God would hear my cries;
And pity every groan;
Long as I live, when troubles rise,
I'll hasten to his throne".-

Chap 19

Jan. 2d. 1840.- The Lord has brought us through another year; and to the beginning of the present and with the pious mans Robinson could sing,

"Here I raise my ebenezer, hither by thy help we're come;
And I hope by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home".-

We are constrained to acknowledge his kind hand of providence in so many instances, as perhaps we seldom had before, but we are apt to forget.- But of the rock that begat me, I would not be unmindful, not like Jesurun, "wax fat and kick at the goodness.-

I have had, and still continue to have, some strong struggles with enemies without and within; and have been led out in prayer against those temptations of late, perhaps more than usual.— Satan at times, seems disputing every inch of ground I go upon; but I have prayed for the shield of faith, whereby I may be enabled to quench his fiery darts".— He lays the axe at the very root, when he gets us to question the truth of the bible, and the being of a God; and then says what folly it must be, to attempt to pray, for who should answer us?— And whether there be any reality in religion, and whether the pleasures we have enjoyed in religion, be any things else but our natural passions touched, or heated by false fire; and so it is all delusion.— I think I have been left to doubt of almost every thing but a Hell, and that I have felt in my own breast and conscience— O. Lord decide these doubts for me, and help me to believe in hope, if it is even against hope;" that I shall one day prove satan a liar, and all his sugestions lies, to the honour and glory of God— I still feel that spirit of prayer for that one object unabated, and am not left without hope, that I shall see it accomplished— My soul has vowed in earnest, in the presence of my lord and husband, and He has not forbidden it.— Num xxx. 3. 4. Eccl. v. 4. 5 &c

Feb 6th.— How time flies away!!— surely I must be near my journeys end, for here's the 67th mile stone!!— Mariners when at sea, like frequently to take their observations, least they should lose their latitude and longitude, and so get bewildered in the course they want to steer, and miss the port they wish to obtain— so would I wish to make my observations, and take Gods word for my compass, and observe all his goodness and mercy to me, as I sail through this troubled ocean of time, till I arrive at my desired haven.— I have been thinking of the number of sins which I must have committed, during the period of 67 years!!— When I was a youth, I was very fond of evil, when I grew up, I was a profligate sinner; and since the Lord has called me by his grace, which I hope is 39 years this week; alas! what numbers of sins have I committed against God, my family, my fellow creatures, and against my own soul!!—

if I were called to account for them, what should I say? but cover my face and cry; "unclean unclean and full of sin,
From first to last, O Lord I've been,"
Deceitful is my heart."—

"But there's a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Emanuel's veins
And sinners plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilt and stains
O. that I may have recourse to that fountain, where I may wash and be clean.— My mind at this time, seems rather ruffled, uneven, and uncomfortable, but grace can calm the surges of the mind, and say to it peace, be still, and all will be serene.—

"This decree, who form'd the earth; fixt my first and second birth;
Parents, native place and time; All appointed were by him
Plagues and death around me fly; Till he bid; I cannot die;
Not a single shaft can hit, Till the god of love sees fit."

March 28th. I attempt again to make some memorandum of God's dealings with me, and it being Saterday night, of course I am upon the flats, and need a high tide to take me off.— By tomorrow about this time, I hope to have help from the Lord, to get rid of some of this "burden of the word of the Lord," that hangs heavy on me. My time is short, preaching here; only two sabbaths more, and I long till that be accomplished.— I have had an invitation, to supply at Fressingfield for a few weeks, but must leave it to the Lord, and hope to be directed aright.— This has been a trying week to me.— I went to see some old friends on monday last, that live near each other; and walking from one house to the other in the dark of the evening, mist my path, and walked into a large ditch; where I might have been smothered in mud and water; and no one have known it; but was mercifully preserved.— But when I got to my friends house, I was obliged to be put in a warm bed and have my clothes washed and dryed by the morning. This I was constrained to acknowledge, as a chastisment from God, for my folly, in leaving the other friends house, who kindly intreated me to stop the night with them.— It cut out some bitter reflections for me in the night season; for I was tossing to and fro, till the morning, crying o. my foolishness my foolishness—

April 13th. Monday morning - I feel in a very weak state this morning both of body and mind, and could wish, if it were the will of God that I had to put off the harness of the ministry, for it seems too much for me, For three days past, my mind has been in such a ruffled state, that I could neither study, nor do any thing else yesterday I got thro with the services twice, with a little help, but so confused, that I could not even divide my subject - In the morning I preached from Ps. CXII. 6-8. afternoon from Eccl III. 1, as a sort of farewell sermon - Numbers of people were there to hear and some wept, and some felt ashamed of their conduct towards us - But as the place of worship, and the principle management of every thing rest in the hands of one family, there is little prospect of much peace, and I feel thankful that I have done with it, and hope the Lord will sustain his same character to us. Jehovah Jireh Stella By His leave, I shall endeavour to go to Fressingfield on Sabbath if nothing unforeseen prevent, but if it be contrary to His will, I hope it will be prevented. - I seem to want but one thing now, to compleate my happiness, here and then I think I could say with Jacob, "Now let me die;" and that is to accomplish that one object, which I have been led to pray for so earnestly, for these last two years and a half. "Then would I tell the world around;

What a dear saviour I have found." -

O. Lord hear the groans, which thou hast put into my heart, for so long a time.

May 21 - I have been over to Fressingfield five sabbaths, to assist Mr. Spratt, and have met with every kindness from the friends and spent the time pretty comfortable, and the Lord knows for what intent I am called thither to preach, for I am often at a loss to know, but I shall know hereafter. - I feel as tho I must give up the ministry, and call upon the society for support; as I dont feel able to go on with it, my health and strength decline so fast - sometimes I feel resigned, to finish my days in a Work house, if it be the will of God, but what is my duty to do, I know not, but hope the Lord will direct my steps, as he has done heretofore - My mind feels dark, my way is dark, and things around me look dark; and I am often led to "wonder where the scene will end." -

I feel too much of an unrelenting heart, and want to feel it softer;
of an unforgiving heart, and want to freely forgive every one.
of an unbelieving heart, and want more faith to believe.—
Which make me often cry; O. Lord, work all these things in me. so be it
I sometimes fear again, that I have been wrong, in praying so much
for that one object, and that I have been wrongly guided, wrongly
influenced, and induced by wrong motives &c. But if so, I know it
not, nor from what quarter these strong desires could come; if they
came not from God.— O. Lord, if I am deceived, do thou undeceive me

July 15th— We are preparing to commence our long journey
to see our children once more, and think of starting, God permit
ting, this afternoon, hope he may grant us many journeying
mercies once again, with his presence and blessing attending
us, as it may be the last time we may ever attempt to under
take it.— My health is very poor, and mine infirmities grow
upon me fast, so that I feel constrained to give over preaching
regular, and can say before God and man, with a clear conscience
that I am not able for the work any longer.— The Ministers' Benevolent Society has voted
me £30.— for the year to come, if I am not able to preach, which
is a great blessing for us in our old age.— Thro' mercy my mind
is pretty comfortable, stayed, I hope upon the right foundation, Christ
Jesus himself being the sole corner stone". I have no other refuge
to flee to, nor do I desire any other, but wish to make him, my "all
in all".— yesterday, our youngest daughter, entered into the marri
age state, being 31 years of age, and hope the Lord may be with
them and with all our children, for we cannot expect to be with
them much longer here.— I feel such a weighty burden, taken off
my poor weak mind, since I have given up the regular ministry,
that few can enter into my feelings, and hope it is the Lord's
pleasing will, that it should be so.— I am not debarred from
preaching occasionly, if I be able, and hope God may make me use
ful, in stopping a gap now and then, in different places in his
vineyard. I only want the means, to accomplish that one object,
and then I could finish my course with joy, as my other work seems
pretty near done, and I like a withered branch, yet I hope for the true
vine, and should be thankful to bring forth fruit in old age.

Aug. 15th -- Last evening We returned in safety, from our long and tedious journey, after ~~and~~ an absence of one month.- My wifes health holds comfortable, but mine feels much worne out with fatigue and infirmities. - Thro mercy We met with much christian friendship, and many mercies accompanied us all our journey through, and hope the Lord was with us.-- I preached five times, at different places, and hope the Lord blessed the word to some who heard it.- We found our family as usual, except our second daughter, who is very much afflicted, and very much tried in life.- O. that they did but all know, and enjoy christ for themselves, and that would sweeten their sufferings here below.-- We have got the promise of a cottage at Grundisburgh, to remove to at Michaelmas, and we have engaged it, as far as man's word goes; "so the lot is cast into the lap, but the whole disposal is of the Lord".- I feel to long to have it over, as perhaps it may be the last removal except to that "house appointed for all, which is the grave:- For years past, I have had a desire, to settle at Grundisburgh, when my work was done elsewhere; and there is an appearance, that it may be so.- That's where we were Baptized, and received ~~into~~ into church fellowship, and thats where I feel a desire to finish my course with joy: but cannot tell how it may be with us.-

Nov 6th I have not written for nearly three months, but perhaps I ought, considering the many favours which we have received.- We removed here, to Grundisburgh, on the 12th of October, and have got a very comfortable house and situation, but my health and strength still decay, and I seem sometimes going to that house appointed for me. God is still very merciful, and friends are very kind, but my nerveless system is so weak, that it mars my comforts, by night and by day, asleep or awake, at home or abroad.- O. how trying! I think if I had the means to accomplish that one longed for of yore, all would be well forever.- O Lord send it in thine own time. We have lately lost our poor afflicted daughter at Braintree, 31 years of age; she was dead before I arrived there, but I heard a good account of her soul concerns.- If that be but well, all is well.- She has left a husband and two children.--

Jan. 1. 1841 -- God has spared us, to begin another year, and we have as usual, to look back upon his past goodness with Wonder and gratitude, for noticing such worthless creatures as we are -- Numerous have been his favours bestowed upon us in the past, and we can only repair our old alter again, and offer the same sacrafice year by year and say again, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us" -- What this year may bring forth, is only known to God, who saw the end from the begining. --

"To thee there's nothing old appears;
Great god there's nothing new" --

Nearly forty years have rolled away, since we first made a profession of religion, and we have been in different encampments in the Wilderness since that time, "and of all the good things promised, not one has failed." For the last week or two, I have felt as though I was mistaken, in expecting that great favour, which I have so long hoped and prayed for, and thought perhaps I was actuated by wrong motives, that it arose more from my weak frames and feelings, and that I had offended ayanst God, in praying so much and so often for it, or expecting such a favour at his hand -- sometimes I think I am only a pharisee, a hypocrite, and that I am trusting too much to my self, and god is just, in leaving me to follow the immagination of my own heart; so I have left it to him, and ceased to pray for it, or expect it, in a great measure, but not altogether. Thus I am tossed up and down, between hopes and despair, upon that ground, but God knows, that I have no desire to be a deceiver, nor to be deceived, nor to offend against my God in any way, if I know it. If I have been wrong, Lord pardon that wrong, if I am right, give me strength to go on, and give me the desire of my heart at last.

"Seasons and months and weeks and days;
Demand successive songs of praise;
And be the grateful homage paid,
With morning light, and evening shade --"

Feb 6th.— I have lived to see, my 68th. year copleted, and the 40th. of my pilgrimage, and have had twelve removals, into different houses.— The Israelites in the wilderness had more than thirty different encampments, during their forty years travel, before they got to their promised rest.— How many more I may be called to make, God only knows, before I rest in the grave, and my soul rests with Jesus, and "go no more out."— "They rest from their labours, and their works do follow them".— For what end, God has spared the cumberground, I know not, but hope it may be for some good and his own glory.— My health and mind are much better thro mercy; but I am quite disentangled from the world, and from the ministry, and have all things needful for the day, and I hope pretty comfortably situated in every respect.— The Lord seems very gracious, and I have many sweet seasons in prayer, and enjoy sweet nearness to him, thro a mediator and advocate with the father.— When I wrote last, I see I begged of him to pardon me if I was wrong and to strengthen my desires, if I was right, and since that, He has indulged me with such sweet opportunities in private, and strong hopes of one day being heard and answered.— When ever I kneel at his feet, I enjoy the greatest tokens of friendship from Him, that it makes me think of the gate of heaven which Jacob experienced at Bethel, and I cannot let him go without the blessing".— Surely if he did not intend something like granting me the desires of my heart He would not indulge me with such seasons as I enjoy almost every day, and sometimes twice and thrice in a day.— "If he had meant to destroy me, he would not have shown me such things as these".—

I preached at Grandisburgh last Lords day, and got thro twice pretty well, but I am far from strong.+— I am sometimes called to supply at different places, and the Lord helps me thro, beyond expectation.

"My flying years time urges on,
What's human, must decay;
My friends, my young companions gone,
Can I expect to stay?".—

× 5 James 14, 18
42 Isa. 5c

April 2d.- My health and circumstances continue much the same upon the whole.- Sometimes for a week or ten days, I feel much better; and think perhaps I may get strength again a little, before I go hence to be no more".- Perhaps I may get be fit for labour again, to do a little more in the vineyard, but if I exert myself a little more than common, or take cold, then I am a down pin, and conclude I shall never be able to work again.- I have been out, supplying for two sabbaths, and preached twice each day, and got thro beyond expectation, but last sabbath I preached once, and felt quite exhausted, so I am at no certainty, but am obliged to conclude that my strength in every respect, is perfect weakness.-
Well, all these things I must leave, I hope I do enjoy Christ precious to me, and many sweet seasons do I enjoy in prayer, and in reading his Word, and other good books, and hope I feel a delight in in Him, according to Ps. xxxvii.-4.5 and that he will one day give me, the desire of my heart, the object which I have been longing and praying for, these last three years and six months.- I see no way opening; no crevice to let in any light, not a cloud so big as a mans hand rising in any direction, yet cannot give it up at times. but hope God will open the way for it to be accomplished.
I should like my few remaining days, and die one of the happiest of men, could I but enjoy that luxury, that greatest of earthly favors I have not mentioned it to an individual, but have begged very earnestly, that God would convince me of my error, if I was wrong, and give me repentance and forgiveness for my sin, in thus presuming, but instead of feeling reproof, I have enjoyed the greatest nearness and fellowship with him, and the greatest encouragement to go on, and renew my suit. O. Lord, hasten it, in its time.- I feel at home through mercy in my situation, as much as can be expected in this changing world, for of course this is not our rest, but are looking for a better country, and it affords pleasure here, when we can live in sight of that land which is afar off, and see Jesus our forerunner there, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

May 4th Another month has fled, since I last wrote, and many mercies have accompanied us in our journey, and many failing and misgivings of heart, have been on my part, for which I desire to take shame to myself; and give god thanks for all his favours. Through mercy, I hope I do feel more stayed upon God and his word and more of a solid rest and composure than I did, and not so much agitated and tossed by the enemy as heretofore, nor so beset by unbelief as in times gone by.— But how long it is to remain so,— is impossible for me to tell, for I have no more strength of my own than usual, so I dare not put confidence there, nor say; "tho all the world should deny thee, yet would not I;" no, that be far from me, for I find human nature is human nature still, and not to be depended upon for an hour. But I find Christ is the same, and changeth not, and hope I find Him increasingly precious to me, and have done in the month that is past at different times in particular.— I think I never recollect coming to a more satisfactory conclusion, than I did the last week or two, of my experence tallying with those words of christ, "Except ye love me more than all, ye can not be my disciples &c".— I could look at my wife, whom I love sincerely; I could think on my children, tho at a distance, and believe I feel a parents affection for them all; but I could look at Christ, and with sincerity of heart I could say, all these; with every other object, with all things that I do, or ever could possess, dwindle into obscurity, as the stars disappear at the rising sun, or as a dim candle at high noon day.— This appeared so clear to me, that experence left me without the shadow of a doubt of its reality. The words of Solomon were very sweet on that ocasion, Song, viii. 1. "O that thou wert as my brother, that sucked at the breasts of my mother &c. Three years and six months must have gone by, since I was first drawn out in prayer so, for the means to accomplish that said object, and I see no door opening, tho I have knock'd with all my might.— "Patience, oh what a grace divine,

Sent from the god of power and love,
Submissive to its father's hand,
As thro' the wilds of life we rove"—

st
June 1. - One month more is passed by, I hope not altogether unnoticed, tho nothing particular in providence has taken place but things outwardly continue much the same with us; yet I have experienced some trying changes within. - I have had some struggles with unbelief, and fear I have offended against God, in asking so often for that favour, to accomplish that object, that my soul has been pained, and I have begged forgiveness with a broken heart, if I have sinned in so doing, and have desisted from it, for these last weeks, and sometimes have omitted secret prayer, least I should offend against my God. - My mind has been considerably agitated at times again, and I have found some darkness and despairing thoughts, and have been almost ready to give up, as a lost man, after all, and had been altogether mistaken and deluded. - Yet I could look back to that season of decision, which I came to last April, viz, that I loved Christ beyond all and every thing else, and that all things when compared with Him, were but vanity and bubbles broken. - I felt one thing this morning at half past five o'clock, while in secret prayer, that I have not felt so before, that I recollect, which was, to put my cause into Christ's hands entirely, and there to leave it, for Him to plead it for me. - and those words of Watts were sweet to me. "Give him my soul, they came to plead,
Nor doubt the the father's grace". -
thus I hope I left it, and thus I hope still to leave it, and with the language of the good man say; "do with me, as shall seem good in thy sight". - Since that time, I have felt more at rest about it, that debt and other things concerning me, and hope and believe that He will do all things well". - What is best for me, I hope to receive with gratitude, and what would be for my hurt, I hope He will withold; and teach me that valuable lesson to say; "I have learned in whatsoever state I am in, therewith to be content". -
"By patience we serenely bear;
The troubles of this mortal state;
And wait contented our discharge,
Nor think our glory comes too late". -

June 30th. God permitting, I expect to leave home tomorrow for the neighbourhood of Aldbro; and have engaged to supply at Aldringham on Sabbath, July 2nd and then spend a few days with our old friends in that part.- Hope the Lord will accompany us from place to place, and grant us his presence; and christian friendship by the way.- "If thou go not with us, carry us not up hence".- I feel my health quite as well as usual, or rather better thro mercy, and the Lord is truly good to us still, though we remain so unworthy of his notice.-- The society has granted us £30- for the coming year, which is a great blessing for us in our old age, and we only want gratitude to him for all the favours we enjoy.- I have felt much inability in prayer for weeks past, and could not utter my feelings before God, as at other times, and in fact, I could not pray, when making the attempt.-- Thoughts wandering, heart misgiving, want of utterance; hardness of feelings, and all against me.-- But on the evening of the 28th I felt considerable enlargement of heart in private, in confession of sin, supplication for mercy, and a view of the great atonement of Christ, and the satisfaction he had made for me, with the extensiveness of pardon through him. I hope I had a good melting season in secret, and in reading Hervey's meditations and contemplations, O. how sweet they were to me.- O. the wonders of creation, and redemption; of the love of Christ, and of the mercy of God thro him to lost and ruined sinners!-

"The more thy glory strikes mine eyes,
The humbler I shall lie,
Thus while I sink my joys shall rise,
unmeasurably high".-

No doubt but the theme of God's love, and the great work of redemption by christ, have been, and still remain, the great wonder of angels, of men and of devils; and will be the grand theme of adoration to all eternity for the redeemed throng on earth and in heaven's glory.- (Ur. Sec. N. 162)

Aug. 3.— I again sit down to record a little account of my sad thoughts and experience, during the past month.— I have been from home part of the time, and enjoyed much christian friendship, with many other mercies, for which I have great cause for thankfulness.— I preached in three different places, but felt and laboured under much bodily deakness, and some depression of spirit, but upon the Whole, I hope it was not an unprofitable season altogether, but rather a refreshing one, from the presence of the Lord!— During the last ten days, since I returned, I have been called to labour under some gloomy seasons. An old friend near me, was taken away by death, and his death was very gloomy, and not able to speak to any one.— Another, I have heard of, who had for many years been a minister, and a very public character, has been suffered to destroy himself, after a so long standing, and eminent usefulness in the cause of christ!— These things have rather preyed upon my weak frame, and shook my nerves, and perhaps satan has been permitted to take the advantage of these things, to suggest, that there is nothing in religion, it is all a delusion, and all which I have experienced, is only immagination!— He suggests again, that my prayers will never be answered, and who knows whether the Bible be true, or how it will be with us after death, and whether conversion, (as we call it) be not a deception; as many who profess to be converted, shew the contrary; and many other things which I cannot mention here, which run through the poor mind at different times.— Sometimes it is hard work to tell where I am, or in what latitude I am sailing; and whether I am not getting too close to the old giant's castle of despair, while looking at other's calamities, and not taking heed to the watch word, "Let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall."—

"Awake my soul, away thy fears,
Let every trembling thought begone;
Awake and run the heavenly race,
And put a cheerful courage on."—

Oct 2nd. How much of late, has this subject dwelt upon my mind, viz- to know whether I ever received any thing from God's hand of providence, in direct answer to prayer?- It is true, I have received an abundance of favours; perhaps few more so, but in counting them all over, I cannot recollect any one, which I received directly in answer to prayer; but I may have done, tho in an indirect way, which I feel at a loss to speak to.- Many, or perhaps most of the numerous favours which I have received, have come through such unexpected channels, where and when I had not thought to look for them.- But I read that Abraham prayed for an heir, and obtained one.- Isaac prayed that his wife might conceive, and she conceived.- Jacob wrestled to prevail against his brother, and he prevailed.- Hannah prayed for a son, and God gave her one.- Elijah prayed that it might not; and that it might rain, and it was according.- David prayed that the counsel of Ahithophel might be frustrated, and it was so.- The prophet prayed that Jeroboam's hand might be restored, and it was done.- The church was praying for Peter's deliverance, and he was soon at the gate where they were assembled.- These, and a number of instances more, might be produced from scripture, of God's hearing and answering prayer, in times gone by.- But perhaps ~~there are~~ reasons why God doth not answer mine is because they are not the prayers of faith, and theirs were, "for "without faith, it is impossible to please him". Heb. xi. 6.- I may indulge iniquity in my heart, and they did not, for if I do, God will not hear my prayers." Ps. lxxi - 18 - & I may "ask and receive not, because I ask amiss." James iv - 3 - But I can appeal to God, so far as I am able to judge, that I don't want it to consume upon my lusts, god forbid, but if I could once accomplish the sincere desires of my heart, in that one thing, which I have been praying for these last four years, and still feel the spirit of prayer continues.- "Give me a calm a thankful heart,

From every murmur free;
The blessings of thy grace impart,
And make me live to thee."

I have sometimes of late, looked at the people of the World, and I see them cheerful and merry, and apparantly happy; but I can take no pleasure with them in their ways; and sometimes enjoy but little in the ways of God.— I gather little or no strength from what I take for the body, yet I linger here.— I derive but little comfort from the Bible and means of grace, yet cannot keep from them.— I see no prospect of real happiness here, yet fear to expect any in the World to come; so I suppose I may use the words of Paul and say, "O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death".— But have I not need to fear, that I am dishonouring God, through my unbelief, and pore my over, and dwelling upon, my worse than dunghill of troubles, and human depravity, till I loose sight of the vicarious sacrafice of christ, which was offered upon calvary's cross?— I profess to preach up a full and free and complete atonement by his precious blood; a full and free and perfect justification by his righteouness, to my hearers, but cannot lay hold of it for myself.— My case makes me think of somthing I have read in Mr Beridge's writings, where he said, "he was exhorting his hearers, to put their whole trust in christ for every thing, and he himself could not trust him for a groat".— But I often look at my crimes, as more heinous than any ones, for whatever good book I read, I stand condemned thereby; who ever I look at, of my old companions in labour and in sin, I feel convinced; none of them sunk in bad dispositions and practices so deep as myself".— I often remember my conduct towards my family in too many instances, and I sink lower than the grave; and then I think how I have carried myself towards some in the church of christ, and I shudder at my own thoughts.— Again I ask, can Christ save such a wretch as this?— Yes I know he can, but can I tell he will?— Well, sometimes I think I can say he will, and sometimes I think I can say, he has done it, and as one old divine said, so can I say; "When I have said Christ is God, and my Christ is God, I have said every thing".— So far I hope I can say, and would with the poet come to that firm conclusion.—

"To sing my saviours wonderous love,
When all things else decay".—

1840

Nov. 15th - Having obtained help of God, I continue to the present, and have no reason to complain of the Lords dispensations, but much to be thankful for - My health is quite as good as usual, or better than in the summer season and my mind seems pretty comfortable respecting the best things. - I have been called out to supply at different places for a sabbath, and thro mercy I have been helped through the services beyond expectation, and the friends have treated me kindly in fetching me and bringing me home &c. - I have enjoyed the presence of God, both in private and in public services, and this of course is one of the greatest blessings we can enjoy here. - I have also been called to pass thro some deep waters and swelling and rolling billows have often tossed me, till I have been at my wits ends, but I find when God is pleased to hush the unruley elements to silence, all is safe and well and I am still upon the rock. - My anchor hope doth still abide

I shall each boistrous storm outride.

With regard to God's providential favours, I have little new to write He is still handing us to our supply, and we have sufficient for the day, and a little to spare for the cause of christ, and have rendered our family a little assistance, but not so much as we could wish. - We have had heavy tidings from one branch of our family, they are greatly tried by afflictions and cross providences, but I hope the Lord will appear for them in his own time and way. I still feel as much desire, and frequently a sweet spirit of prayer and supplication, for the means to discharge that old debt, before I finish my course, and I often feel great nearness to christ on that occasion, and great familiarity with my God at such seasons, and a holy boldness at a throne of grace and great encouragement both from scripture and experience to hope he will yet grant me the the desire of my heart, tho he has kept me praying and waiting these four long years.

Dec 7th -- We are entered upon the last month of the year,
and who can tell, but it may be the last of our lives also?-
Be it so, if we are found in Christ, all is, and will be well-
I hope, if I am not deceived, I daily find & enjoy Him precious,
and feel nearness of fellowship with God thro Him, so that
the lines are fallen to me in pleasant places, and I have a good
by heritage." I hope I am not speaking boastingly, as if for
my own merits, because I am walking in smoother paths than for-
merly, that be far from me, but because my Saviour sees
it meet, that my passage should be a little more pleasant
at the latter part of the voyage, before I enter my desired haven.
But I cannot assure myself of a day nor an hour, how long
this sort of calm may last, nor what storms I may be called
to encounter, before I reach that port of endless rest, but hope
to be found watching upon deck, not like Jonah, asleep in the side of
the ship, but attending to my compass which is his word, having
my anchor hope cast within the veil, where the forerunner is
for us entered, with a firm reliance upon the skill and power
of my pilot, who is always at the helm of all affairs, and has
the government upon His shoulders, with a right by birth, of the coun
try to which I am going. — These things are desirable to the min
but whether the Lord intends them for me to enjoy, there my re
maining days, I must leave to Him who is too wise to err. —
One thing I know, that He is of one mind, and who can turn
Him?
and that the foundation which he hath laid, standeth sure",
and I hope I am built thereon, and that the gates of Hell shall
not finally prevail against me. I find as much nearness to Him in
secret, and my soul drawn out in prayer as much as ever, for
that long expected favour, that I have been looking for these
last four years, but see no way to accomplish it at present.
but cannot give it up

1842

Jan. 1st 1842. - I have once more the favour granted me, to begin another new year, and I hope with greatful acknowledgements of the mercies of the past. - Perhaps few have greater cause for gratitude, in every respect, tho I should think few ~~have~~ know less. - It has been altogether a year of mercies ~~in every respect~~ both temporal and spiritual, for we have had a comfortable home, and all needful comforts of this life, with every religious privelege we could desire, and perhaps as good, if not rather better portion of health than for years past. - I hope in addition to all these nether springs blessings, I hope I have enjoyed Christ in the use of means, often times very precious to the soul which has lightened my pathway, eased my burden, and strengthened me for my journey, & made my trials lighter, my times pass on sweeter, and my approaching end less dreaded. - What ever the Lord has designed for me and mine, during the year that we are now entered upon, is best known to himself, but hope He will prepare us for his own good pleasure. - Several of our family have been and are still considerably tried in circumstances, and by afflictions, and often mourn, that I can help them no more, but what cant be done, must be undone, and the Lord has seen it needful to lay it upon them, and it cannot be avoided that I know of. - I feel thankful, that it is not brought upon them through bad conduct, if it was, it would be more painful, but the Lord reigns, and I hope He will deliver them from all these things, and cause them all to work together for good. - We have returned the Baptist Chapel at Grundisburgh, after being dismissed from it, about perhaps thirty six years, and I hope we feel at home in that respect, but God only knows, where the bounds of our habitation is to be fixed, before we go hence, to be no more here. - I see, when I wrote this day twelve months I was doubting whether I was not wrong, in praying for, or expecting that favour so long prayed for; but long since then, I have had many sweet seasons, and much nearness to God that Christ in wrestling for it, and can but hope till the present hour, that I am to have it, and accomplish the desires of my heart so far. -

Feb. 7th As yesterday was the Christian Sabbath, and I hope I spent it with some comfort at our place of worship and enjoyed the ordinances of God in His house of prayer, and therefore I could not write on my birth day, as I usually have done, but I have passed another milestone, and have entered my seventieth year. — Perhaps it is one of the greatest proofs of the Lord's long sufferings and patient forbearance towards a cumber ground like me. I have thought for years past, that I only stood in the way of better people, but the Lord does not see fit to take me out of the way at present, and therefore I must wait His will, for what will it advantage us, barely to say "thy will be done", except we acquiesce in all His will concerning us? — But sometimes I find that the hardest task, not to say so, but to carry it into practice at all times, on all occasions, under all trials and afflictions that come upon me, in my Pilgrimage here below. — Forty one years yesterday, since I hope I first heard the gospel to profit, and now I stand covered with shame, when I seriously reflect upon my past conduct during my professional life, to think of the sins and slips and failings, my unbelief and misgivings of heart, that I fail to sink under the weight of my load, and conclude that there is not another such a wretch to be found out of Hell! — But I have of late been priveleged, and I hope profited, in reading the life and writings of Mr. John Newton, which perhaps have been the means in the hand of God, of keeping me from dark despair. — As he was saved thro' grace it gives me some encouragement to say, "who can tell." but poor I may share with him, in the happy lot? —

I still continue to feel the same desires after that one object, as I ever have done, during the last four years and upwards; and the spirit of prayer continues also, and I still continue to hope, that I shall one day accomplish my desires. —